

BELL'S  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
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# THE GUARDIAN

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## Higher rate on bigger mortgages scrapped

# Big societies lead way to cheaper loans

By Margaret Dibben  
Money Editor

The Halifax building society last night announced that it was cutting the mortgage rate to 13 1/2 per cent for new borrowers from this morning, following the Abbey National lead in bringing cheaper home loans nearer for everyone.

The Halifax spokesman said the cut was 1 per cent from the present 14 per cent for those with loans below £20,000. The society was also abolishing additional rates previously charged for borrowers of larger amounts, he added.

A Halifax spokesman said that existing borrowers could expect a drop to 13 1/2 per cent before September 1.

Existing borrowers with the Abbey National will have to wait until later in the year for a reduction, but meanwhile the savings rates are to be kept high.

The society has also abolished the practice of charging more for larger loans. The new rate for all repayment mortgages from today is 13 1/2 per cent, existing borrowers are paying 14 per cent for loans up to £15,000, 14 1/2 per cent to £25,000, and 14 3/4 per cent for over £25,000.

The decision to abolish differentials brings the societies

Playing reverse Monopoly with houses, page 23

Into line with Nationwide and the Woolwich — which charges a flat 13 3/4 per cent

Cheaper loans for all home buyers now look likely to take effect from September 1. Although the Building Societies Association council will not meet in August, agreement between societies to change rates is no longer necessary.

However, the cut in mortgage rate may be lower

than the 1 per cent previously discussed if all societies decide to abolish differentials for larger loans.

The Abbey National's decision to cut 0.75 per cent from the basic mortgage rate should, said the chief executive, Mr Peter Birch, make it easier for young people to become home owners. But there are signs that the present high interest rates are dampening mortgage demand. There are now no queues and societies, including the Halifax, have been advertising for new lending business, while some have begun to market loans other than for house buying or improving.

Anyone with an application for an Abbey National mortgage in the pipeline will benefit immediately from the new rate and existing borrowers will see a reduction as soon as other societies move, although they will have to wait until later in the year for an end to differentials.

## Tax relief plan rejected

By John Ardill  
Environment Correspondent

The Government has rejected the recommendation by the Duke of Edinburgh's inquiry into British Housing, that mortgage interest relief be phased out in favour of a needs-related housing allowance for owner-occupiers and tenants.

Mrs Thatcher, whose opposition to the much-leaked idea has been well advertised, told the Commons yesterday: "So long as I am here, mortgage relief will continue."

The scheme is part of a radical package of fiscal, legislative and administrative proposals to widen and equalise choice and improve the country's housing. It calls for a new attitude which does not assume that everyone wants to be an owner-occupier, and which sees a key role for the private sector in rented accommodation.

The report, published yesterday, says the proposals are interlinked and indivisible. The Government appears to view the findings as politically unacceptable and economically unworkable. Others dissected the package, welcoming or con-



Prince Philip — radical package on housing

demning the element according to taste.

The committee's decision not to take evidence from political parties has put it at odds with existing commitments and demands. It nonetheless hopes that detailed study of its findings, and public pressure, will bring a cross-party consensus for change which it optimistically suggests should begin within two or three years.

The Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, said the Government would study the report carefully, but noted that its purpose was to "consider housing issues against a much longer perspective than the life of any one government." It did not accord with present day political opinion or even, nec-

essarily, with current economic circumstances," he said.

Labour's housing spokesman, Mr Jeff Rooker, said the party's conference would consider the proposals for a new approach to housing functions of local authorities by giving them a key strategic role. The report indicated a crying need for new housing investment and Labour was fully committed to a large increase in public investment to ensure that enough houses were built, improved, and repaired.

The SDP spokesman, Mr John Gummer, said that the report was "a sensible and sensible idea, but called the proposal of the abolition of mortgage relief 'wrong-headed'." Nearly 6 million people had planned their household budgets on the basis of that relief.

The Duke, launching the report, said: "I have long felt that the housing situation in this country was in need of a long, hard look, largely because the acquisition of well-intentioned but often conflicting legislation has created a situation which no one intended."

The inquiry's sole purpose was to put forward practical ways in which the situation might be gradually improved. The housing action group, Shelter, called the report a

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## Tyra's father given life sentence

By Sarah Bosceley

ANDREW NEIL, aged 20, the father of Tyra Henry, the baby who died as the result of severe head injuries, her body covered in human bites, was convicted of her murder and sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday.

Judge Lymbery, QC, sentencing Neil at the Old Bailey to youth custody which will become life imprisonment when he is 21, made no recommendation as to how long he should serve. But he called the abuse that Tyra suffered "an appalling case of cruelty" and said that no doubt the Home Secretary would take that into account.

Tyra, aged 21 months when she died last September, was in the care of Lambeth council from 11 days after her birth. Neil and the baby's mother, Claudette Henry, had a first child, Tyra, who suffered severe non-accidental injuries which left him blind, brain-damaged and partially deaf.

After sentencing Neil, Judge Lymbery stressed: "I can find no fault whatever with the social services in the circumstances of this case."

While welcoming the judge's remarks, the vice-chairman of the former vice-chairman of Lambeth's social services committee were at pains yesterday to

admit to mistakes by staff members of its social services department.

Disciplinary action was being contemplated against three staff, one of whom was the key medical officer on the case, who has since left to work for another authority. The other two are at management level.

Councillor Stephen Bubb, who was vice-chairman at the time of the case and is now chief whip on Lambeth council, tried to play down tensions between professional social workers and councilors which have come to a head over the Tyra Henry case. Strike action has been threatened by the social workers, a threat which Mr

Bubb doubted would be carried out.

Neil and Miss Henry, who met at school and lived with their families on the same Brixton council estate in south London, had their first child, Tyra, in December 1981, when both were aged 17.

At the age of three and a half months Tyra was taken to hospital, seriously injured, and Neil was charged with causing the injuries, which included fractures of the child's legs and skull.

At Inner London crown court in May 1983 Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said: "The leg fractures were consistent with being twisted and wrrenched,

the damage to the eyes and brain consistent with his being shaken violently and the fractured skull consistent with a direct blow caused by a blunt object."

A jury found Neil guilty of wilfully injuring the child and he was sentenced to borstal, where he was already serving a sentence for robbery, the latest in a string of offences which began when he was 11. On appeal, however, the conviction was quashed.

When Tyra was born in November 1982 Lambeth juvenile court agreed that she should be placed in the care of her mother, Claudette, then living with the mater-

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The Soviet Pushkin: That's what many Russians called singer-actor Vladimir Vysotsky, pictured top with his actress wife Marina Vidy and whose Moscow grave (above) was visited by thousands yesterday on the fifth anniversary of his death

## Squeeze on Tory shares eased

By John Carvel  
Political Correspondent

MR PATRICK Jenkin yesterday gave the Tory backbenchers an end-of-term treat by announcing the abolition of the system of spending targets and penalties which for the last five years have placed the low-spending Conservative MPs under a severe financial squeeze.

The Government still wants English councils to cut their spending by about £1 billion next year, but it is shifting the pressure away from its low-spending supporters and onto the high-spending urban areas, which are mostly controlled by Labour.

The highest spenders will be subjected to a rate-capping regime which is redoubled in intensity. They will

Day in Politics, page 6

largely be expected to freeze their budgets for a second year, implying a cut of at least 10 per cent in real terms.

Newcastle and Liverpool have been added to the rate-capping list, while Sheffield, Leicester, Portsmouth, and the London borough of Brent have been removed on grounds of good behaviour.

The Inner London Education Authority is being told to cut its budget by a further 13 per cent in cash terms; and about 20 joint boards set up to inherit the functions of the Greater London Council and metropolitan counties will be subjected to tight control. These measures are designed to put the lid on local authority spending worth £3.5 billion, affecting about 20 million people.

Other councils will be controlled through a tough new mechanism for distributing the rate support grant. As before, the central feature of the system will be the so-called grant-related expenditure assessments whereby Whitehall estimates how much each council needs to spend to provide a standard level of service.

Councils spending above this will lose their grant at an escalating rate which is much more severe than before. Low-spending councils will get a better grant deal if they keep their budgets down, but they will not be penalised as severely for modest growth.

The system will now depend on what the Government thinks councils ought to be spending and not on what they happen to have spent in the recent past.

Mr Jenkin got a good reception from his backbenchers when he announced the settlement in the Commons. "The success of rate-capping in curbing the worst excesses of the highest spenders means that, for the generality of authorities, we can now do without targets and penalties next year," he said.

Mr Francis Pym told him of the "Relief that the abandonment of targets will generate." But his thanks were tempered by the remark that it would have been better if Mr Jenkin had seen the light before the

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## US dismisses sanctions call

From Alex Brummer  
in Washington, and  
Robin Dilks  
in New York

The White House last night brushed aside the growing international revulsion about the violence and clampdown in South Africa and pledged to continue its dialogue with Pretoria in an effort to bring about reforms in the country and solve the regional disputes.

President Reagan's press spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, told correspondents: "We remain prepared to stay ac-

lines of those going through the US Congress. It called for an end to new investment in South Africa and a halt to nuclear cooperation, to export loan guarantees, to supplying computers that the South African police or army might use, and to the import of Krugers. The text also called for the immediate lifting of the state of emergency and the release of those detained.

France also faced the possibility that the African and non-aligned states, upstaged for once by the French, might want to use the heightened mood of consternation to press for mandatory economic sanctions.

The United States and Britain made it plain yesterday that while they find apartheid repugnant they were not prepared to follow the French and impose economic sanctions. The cautious attitude of the two largest Western investors in southern Africa effectively leaves both countries increasingly isolated from the larger body of international opinion, now openly disgusted with Pretoria's behaviour.

Diplomats in Washington said that South Africa, clearly starting to feel the pressure of public opinion, was seeking to hold early talks with the Reagan Administration in an effort to solve recent differences. The White House dismissed talk of

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## Don'ts for the detainees

From Patrick Laurence  
in Johannesburg

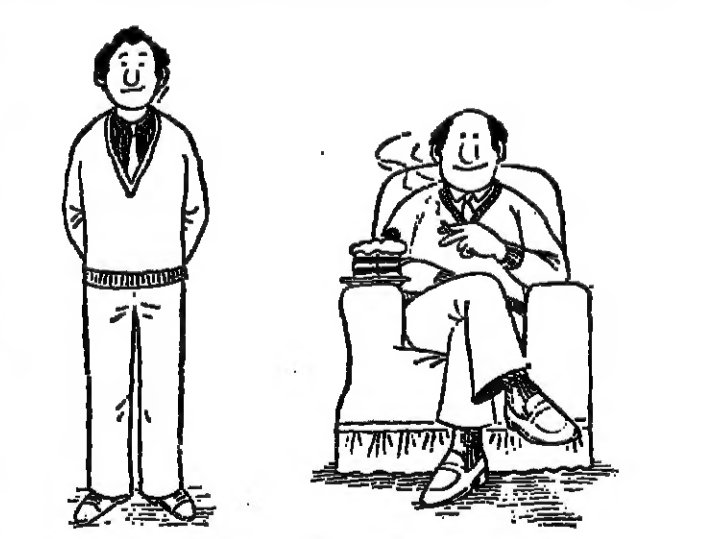
THE NEARLY 900 detainees held under South Africa's state of emergency have been forbidden to sing and whistle. Fines for these offences — or any other "unnecessary noise or trouble" — can be imposed by any prison officer and include solitary confinement, deprivation of one or more meals a day, and, if the detainee is a boy under the age of 14, six strokes.

Detainees are not entitled to any reading matter, except the

Bible or another holy book of religion. Detainees may not communicate with visitors except in one of the official languages, English or Afrikaans, through an approved interpreter if necessary.

Detainees may not receive radios, record players, tape recorders, musical instruments or television sets, food, cigarettes or tobacco.

Detainees may not study or enrol for any studies, but are entitled to "exercise in the open air for at least one hour a day, weather permitting."



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Company slump

THE FINANCIAL TIMES Index of 30 leading companies reached a new low for this year when it sank to 911, a fall of 15 — as a drop in second quarter profits from ICI — whose shares slumped 30p to 659p — underlined fears over the economy. City Notebook, page 18; ICI, page 22; Trade figures, back page.

### Radiation inquiry

THE Minister of Health yesterday announced the setting up of a committee to study the effects of man-made and natural radiation on the public. Page 2.

### £2m paid back

A DRUG firm has repaid the National Health Service £2 million in excess profits. Page 2.

### Bradford quiz

THE foreman of the jury at the inquest into the 56 victims of the Bradford City fire questioned the club's chairman yesterday. Page 4.



If you're intending to watch Match of the Day here next season, I'd like you to fill in this form, provide two passport size photographs...

### Sikh rift

EXTREMIST Sikhs are denouncing the Indian government on the Punjab crisis as a sell-out. Page 8. Leader comment, page 14.

### Counter threat

THE Soviet Union yesterday said that it would meet the United States' Star Wars programme with a new generation of strategic nuclear missiles. Page 18.

### Vindicated

FIVE YEARS after their open letter in the Guardian which led eventually to the formation of the Social Democratic Party, David Owen, William Rodgers, and Shirley Williams said that a fatally flawed Labour Party and a corrupt and divided Tory government amply justify their 1980 stance. Agenda, page 17.

### Health warning

INCREASES in money for hospitals and community health services will not be sufficient to cover higher pay or the rising number of elderly people, the National Association for Health Authorities said yesterday. Page 4.

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### The weather

WARM with sunny intervals. Details, back page.

## Russians honour a modern Pushkin

From Martin Walker  
in Moscow

"PEOPLE will come to my tomb forever," said Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet, and yesterday morning Moscow's leading intellectuals and thousands of other admirers thronged round the humble Vaganovskoye cemetery for the fifth anniversary of the death of a singer-actor that many Russians call the Second Pushkin.

Vladimir Vysotsky's grave was heaped with flowers in ornate vases, in plastic wastepaper baskets, and in jam jars. Rows of candles flickered before the headstone. His mother, leading actors, and writers walked slowly through the police cordons, followed by a wreath so huge that he might have been a member of the Central Committee.

Vysotsky was such an essentially Russian character that it is almost impossible to compare him with any Western figure. A combination of John Lennon and Bob Dylan, yet also one of the leading actors of his day, he gave some idea of his cultural importance.

When he died tragically young five years ago in the middle of the Moscow Olympics, his funeral attracted more crowds than the Games.

Yet he was never allowed to sing on Soviet television and was never granted the title Peoples' Artist of the Soviet Union. His enormous poetic range, from tender lyricism to biting satire of Soviet life, meant that almost every Russian responded to some of his work, even those officials who publicly withheld their approval.

Vysotsky's great role was played with Moscow's Taganka Theatre Company which he and the now exiled director, Yuri Lyubimov, presented as the fight of an honest, if hesitant, young man against evil rule and hypocrisy. The message for a modern Soviet audience was explicit.

At his grave yesterday, the mourning crowds were a cross-section of Russian society, old and young, sleekly prosperous and mean in rough working clothes. There were war veterans, who knew by heart his love poem of the war against Hitler: "A little earth hut was enough for the two of us. But now I live here all alone, and sometimes I think it was me who did not come home from the battle."

"He was our soul," said one old lady, the tears in her eyes gleaming like the medals on her chest. "He was our voice."



John McEnroe — a month to decide

## McEnroe asked to do the decent thing

By Aileen Ballantyne  
John McEnroe, the former Wimbledon champion whose use of the blunt epithet "shit" has never endeared him to the English tennis set, was asked yesterday to "do the honourable thing" and resign from the exclusive Queen's Tennis club in London.

If the American decides against the chivalrous course of action men's say, there will be no choice but to expel him.

It is one thing to swear at a tennis ball; it is going pretty

near the mark to swear at a Wimbledon umpire; it is a sign perhaps of good breeding to swear at the press.

But never, in England, even McEnroe should know, does one swear at a lady. Particularly if that lady is the wife of a former club chairman of Queen's.

McEnroe's fall from grace at the Queen's court was the work of a few moments. It happened during the Wimbledon championships when he was practising on a court which had apparently been

booked by other Queen's members.

A few of the Queen's club lady members made so bold as to use his name, and McEnroe that he was, perhaps, in error.

In reply, he is said to have sworn at Mrs Sheila Boden, wife of a former club chairman, Mr Ivan Boden. Mrs Boden was said to have been "shaken right" by McEnroe's words.

Mr Jonathan Edwards, the club secretary, said that a committee meeting on Wednesday night decided to ask McEnroe

to resign. Under club rules, he has one month in which to explain his conduct. Failure to do so would lead to his expulsion.

Ivan Boden, who was on the committee which made the decision, said his wife and the young American female player had booked the court McEnroe was playing on.

They allowed him to play for several minutes before pointing out politely that it was their court, he said.

"Mr McEnroe was rude to them. One of the women asked

him 'Have you no manners?' He just erupted. His language was thoroughly obscene. To use his words, it was the pits."

Later Mrs Boden, speaking from her home in Richmond-on-Thames, said: "I am not prepared to repeat what he said. I am surprised you ask me to. It was something you would not hear in the gutter. It was as offensive as it could be. Sampson has to put McEnroe in his place."

McEnroe, who lost his singles title at Wimbledon, was not available for comment.



## Agreement pushes out traditional print unions

# Electricians sign no-strike deal on Shah's daily

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Correspondent

The electricians' union executive yesterday endorsed a single union, no-strike agreement covering Mr. Eddie Shah's proposed new daily paper. The deal was endorsed despite a request from the TUC general secretary, Mr. Norman Willis, asking the electricians to delay a decision to allow time for further consultation with other print unions.

The deal gives sole recognition and bargaining rights to the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, effectively excluding the other print production unions, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, the Association of Engineering Workers.

The deal will worsen the electricians' standing with the

might be taken to protect their interests. One of the major principles of the TUC Bridlington procedure, covering inter-union disputes over representation, is that a union first consults other unions before signing any deal which may affect their bargaining rights.

The agreement promises to revolutionise existing Fleet Street industrial relations. In a joint statement yesterday the EETPU and Mr. Shah's News (UK) signalled the electricians' wider ambitions in the print industry by stating "Both parties intend the agreement to be a model for good industrial relations in the electronic printing era." The EETPU believes that changes in technology, and in particular the spread of computerised printing, means that the electricians' union can justifiably spread its influence.

The deal endorsed yesterday covers nine broad heads of agreement and follows closely the pattern of previous no-strike agreements signed elsewhere in industry by the EETPU.

Full flexibility and the use of the latest printing processes will be integral to the production of Mr. Shah's paper, which is to be printed at five printing centres around the country. Mr. Shah intends to employ 380 workers eligible for EETPU membership, including drivers and machine workers.

The heads of agreement are to be fleshed out by December 1985 through a joint working party consisting of Mr. Tom Rice, the EETPU's national officer, and two News (UK) managers, Miss Helen Graham and Mr. Roy Dickinson.

Mr. Shah has been reviled by the print union since his closed shop dispute with the NGA in Warrington in 1983. It may be difficult for the print unions to invoke the TUC's Bridlington procedure since Mr. Shah's paper involves a new company in a green field site with no existing employees.

Earlier this year the TUC endorsed the electricians' single union deal at Hitachi after a complaint by other unions that the electricians' agreement had excluded their existing representation rights. Mr. Shah has made it clear that although he is giving exclusive representation rights in the production process to the EETPU, he will be allowing the National Union of Journalists to seek representation rights in the editorial area.

Mr. Shah received this week a letter from the general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, Mr. David Dean, seeking a meeting after a leak of the proposed single union deal, but Mr. Shah said yesterday that the letter had "arrived after the horse had bolted."



Tony Dubbins—  
"a clear snub"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sewerage shooting

A 43-year-old man arrested after the shotgun killing of three sewerage workers at Bothwell in Lanarkshire on Wednesday is expected to appear in court in Glasgow today, writes Jean Stead.

A report on the case is being sent by the police to the procurator fiscal.

A Datsun car with the registration number SHS 895W, belonging to one of the men killed, which was damaged after the shooting, was traced by the police in Ayrshire. The public had been warned not to approach the car or its driver.

### Man held after bomb found

ARMED police yesterday arrested a man at Oulton near Pontefract, West Yorkshire, in connection with the discovery of a bomb outside the home of a retired miner at Thurnstone, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, on Wednesday night.

Two sticks of explosives were found wired up to a 12-volt battery and a timing device beneath a rear window of the house. The area was evacuated and an army bomb disposal team carried out a controlled explosion.

### Police interview man over attack

DETECTIVES hunting the man who stabbed and sexually assaulted two 13-year-old girls on Tuesday were yesterday interviewing a middle-aged man.

Detectives from two forces visited the man's Cambridge-shire home at dawn yesterday. He was taken to Cambridge police headquarters for questioning. The girls were in a serious but stable condition at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds.

Criticising the pay levels in the legal system, Lord Denning said that, while judges and top lawyers were paid far too much, young solicitors and

## British Gas told, 'spend more on safety'

By Gareth Parry

British Gas should re-examine its priorities and increase spending on an urgent programme replacing old mains pipes in the wake of the Putney flats explosion which killed eight people, the Health and Safety Executive reported yesterday.

The very unusual combination of factors involved in the blast could not have been foreseen, said the report, and the public should not be alarmed. But it added that it could not rule out the possibility of such an explosion happening again.

The type of gas main at the Putney flats—a 32-year-old 6-inch cast iron pipe—was not included in the British Gas Corporation's priority programme of replacement after a government report's recommendations in 1977 which had been prompted by a series of gas explosions in different cities.

That programme was completed last year, said the Health and Safety report, and it recommended that the British Gas Corporation should reverse the decline in its overall level of spending on replacing cast iron pipes.

Accepting the report, Dr John Cullen, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, said: "We therefore expect BGC to review publicly their priorities on mains replacement and to commit themselves to an adequate level of expenditure, which will need to be made binding on their successors."

The Health and Safety Executive's report says that the blast was probably caused by pressure from heavy vehicles, such as refuse lorries, using a service road and ground subsidence, leading to the fracture of the cast iron gas main.

The pipe at the privately-owned Newham House, Manor Fields Estate, Putney, broke at the point where it passed over a drain.

The gas would normally have dispersed safely, but the effect of severe cold weather, ground conditions and the structure of the 1930s building combined to provide a route for the escaping gas to enter and collect in the flats.

It is not known what ignited the gas, but at 7.15 am many people were preparing breakfast, providing several potential sources of ignition.

New guidelines to the construction industry on work near cast iron gas mains are already being written.

The commission has also asked British Gas to undertake a number of other reviews on the integrity of mains, particularly in relation to the effects of heavy vehicles and uneven settlements, the movement of gas through soil into buildings, the standards and advice on the construction and maintenance of roads passing over gas mains, and of gas detection techniques.

Dr Cullen said: "The combination of factors which led to this tragedy were very unusual, and we accept that the organisations involved with the gas and the supply of gas could not have foreseen the danger. But as the report explains, we cannot rule out the possibility of similar situations occurring elsewhere."

The Putney Explosion, Stationery Office, £3.75.

## OBITUARY

### Writer on masonry

STEPHEN KNIGHT, author of *The Brotherhood*, a controversial book about freemasonry, died yesterday in Scotland. He was 33.

Mr. Knight, who wrote a number of other successful books, including *Jack the Ripper*—*The Final Solution*, was operated upon for a brain tumour last September. Surgeons told him then that he might only have a year to live.

Mr. Knight's book on freemasonry caused a sensation. It alleged that masons used many top jobs in the police, the judiciary, the Civil Service, the army and local government.

His most serious claim was that the EGB had infiltrated masonry and had paved the way for Sir Roger Hollis, alleged to have been a Soviet agent, to become head of MI5.

they have not complained nor sought an increase. "No top member of the Bar, however large his income, has refused appointment at present levels. And I know of many top men in industry who would pay vast sums to acquire such honours. . . . They are not for sale."

He added: "My feeling is that it was impolitic and un-



THE Pakistan Welfare Society, which is campaigning against attacks on Asians in east London, complained yesterday that the police were doing little to catch the criminals.

Mrs Arshad Aslam, pictured above with her daughter Samina, says she was the victim of an arson attack.

The society's president Dr Zafar Malik, (right), has collated a dossier of 22 arson attacks.

Commander John Allaine, the Metropolitan Police community relations officer, said: "There are a number of people awaiting trial



There is suspicion of organised attacks like the National Radiological Protection Board and the International Commission for Radiological Protection because it is believed that they have a vested interest in the industry.

Since concern began to rise about cancer clusters near nuclear installations a number of protest groups have been formed. Much of the information they have collected has no scientific base but has led to increasing fears among the public that being near a nuclear installation carries with it an increased risk of cancer.

The new committee will be expected to consider such information as there is. One of the points that Mr Douglas Black made was that there was practically no research in the area.

He made a number of suggestions for research but most of them have not been taken up because no funds have been made available.

A BNFL spokesman said the firm was aware of the Merlins' predicament.

In Cumbria, a couple have

## Lack of welfare figures criticised

By Seumas Milne

The Government's decision not to publish figures to show how its proposals for an overhaul of the welfare system would affect claimants was "unwise and unhelpful," the all-party House of Commons Social Services Select Committee said yesterday.

In a unanimous report on the Government's green paper, published last month, the MFs declared that in the absence of such figures it was practically impossible to judge the plans. All agreed with the committee's chairman, Mrs. Renee Short, who said she was certain that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, Mr. Norman Fowler, had produced figures for the Cabinet.

Using its own figures and a modest assumption of £80 million savings a year, the committee estimated that Mr. Fowler's proposed changes to the benefit system could result in 94 million losers.

On the Government's proposal to abolish Serps, the earnings-related pension scheme, the select committee recommended delay in any legislation until there has been time for full consultation.

At present, the Government intends to publish a white paper on the reform of social security in the autumn, to be

followed by legislation in the next session of Parliament.

The select committee's report says that the review of the social security system has not been used as a means to reduce costs, yet a means to "unwise and unhelpful," the all-party House of Commons Social Services Select Committee said yesterday.

But the report also comes out with some strong recommendations on the green paper. The committee:

- Expresses particular concern about the "value" to be put on the green paper's duty to concentrate more help on poorer families with children. It recommends that claimants under 25 with children should receive the full adult rate.

- Calls on the Government to ensure that the proposals for the Social Fund, intended to cover claimants' exceptional difficulties, are more fully thought out before implementation, and that the fund is flexibly administered.

- Welcomes the Government's intention to replace family credits, but recommends that high priority be given to introducing an integrated system of tax and child credits.

## Extra £10m for NCB job creation agency

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

An additional £10 million of public money was yesterday ploughed into the National Coal Board's job creation agency, NCB (Enterprise).

The extra £10 million, approved yesterday by the Energy Secretary, Mr. Peter Walker, will double the funds in the agency's purse.

The agency has already created around 1,000 new jobs in the mining areas since its establishment in August last year.

But when asked why the project had not been set up before the launch of the current pit closure programme, the NCB chairman, Mr. Ian MacGregor, said the shut-down of pits had begun in 1945 and Mr. Walker snapped: "It's because we have never had such a good chairman or Secretary of State before."

Announcing the extra funding in London, Mr. Walker said he wanted to assure the mining communities that there would be no lack of financial, practical or political encouragement to the success of the enterprise agency.

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## Government starts medical committee to investigate effects of radiation

By Paul Brown

A new government medical committee is being set up to study the effect of man-made and natural radiation on the public. It was announced yesterday by the Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Clarke.

The announcement, delayed because of the prosecution of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd for an unauthorised radioactive discharge, is in line with the recommendations of the Black Committee into local incidence of leukaemia in Cumbria near the Sellafield nuclear works.

Among the research that Black recommended was the testing of placenta in the region for plutonium to see if there was any connection between that and the incidence of child cancers.

The Government has not yet named the members of the committee and environmental groups will be watching closely to see whether it will be packed by people from within the nuclear industry or with outsiders.

There is suspicion of organised attacks like the National Radiological Protection Board and the International Commission for Radiological Protection because it is believed that they have a vested interest in the industry.

Since concern began to rise about cancer clusters near nuclear installations a number of protest groups have been formed. Much of the information they have collected has no scientific base but has led to increasing fears among the public that being near a nuclear installation carries with it an increased risk of cancer.

The new committee will be expected to consider such information as there is. One of the points that Mr Douglas Black made was that there was practically no research in the area.

He made a number of suggestions for research but most of them have not been taken up because no funds have been made available.

A BNFL spokesman said the firm was aware of the Merlins' predicament.

## Channel 4 pop shows get IBA rebuke

By Peter Fiddick

THE Independent Broadcasting Authority criticises two pop music programmes on Channel 4 in its annual report, which was presented to Parliament yesterday.

One programme, *The Tube*, is accused of bad taste while a show starring the American singer, Millie Jackson, had screened an "indecent" item, it says.

The report says: "It is never easy to find the correct scheduling for programmes aimed primarily at older children and young adults."

The Tube was perhaps the best pop music show on television, deriving some of its vitality from the fact that it was a live show, which could lead to the occasional mishap.

"However, the Tube is shown in family viewing time and more than once it has been material unsuitable for early evening. It is fair to say that Channel 4 and Tyne-Tees Television, which produces the show, were disturbed by these incidents."

The report says of the Millie Jackson show: "Even though it was shown late at night, one item in a performance by the American entertainer, Millie Jackson, was indecent," referring to a song with a four-letter lyric.

Andrea Woorf, director of programmes for Tyne-Tees, said yesterday: "As the IBA have indicated in their annual report, we have had a very close dialogue with them and Channel 4 about the problems of providing the young audience at this time in the evening."

We keep a very close eye on plans for the programme and when there have been very serious slips we have supported and understood the authority.

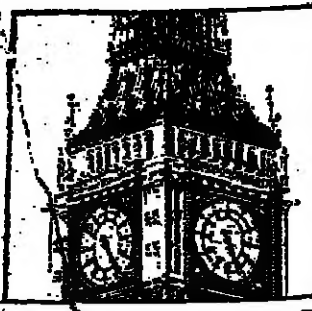
Spitting Image, the programme built around caricatures and puppets of public figures, is applauded as "innovative," and given the IBA's support. "Except on the one occasion when a producer relatively new to TV casting did show an image action was taken to pre-empt any repetition of such subliminal material."

The target of his outrage yesterday was the Duke of Edinburgh, who had given his name and authority to a report recommending that tax relief on mortgages should go.

Owning your own home, Mr. Biffen informed the Commons during Treasury questions was an essential part of standing on your own feet. And later he begged the Prime Minister to take this opportunity to confirm that the Government had no intention of tampering with the sacred subsidy.

Mrs Thatcher said she was happy to repeat what she had said before. "So long as I am here," she said, "mortgage relief on tax will continue." Tax relief on mortgages, reliable sources said, is as expected to continue.

She will not take Sir Philip's advice, of course, though she should. Perhaps she will go to the sea. Denis and the twins will be able to build sandcastles if they wish. But she will be building cabinets.



David McKie

## Waive the cash and take a rest

SIR PHILIP GOODHART (C. Beckenham) has been in the Commons since 1957. He was the most senior of the backbench Tories who voted against their Government on the issue of Lord Hailsham's pay in the early hours of Wednesday.

Later, in a more reflective early evening debate, Sir Philip recalled the advice which Leo Amery gave Chamberlain and his ministers in the Norway debate of 1940, when, pointing to the government's predicament, he echoed the words of Cromwell: "You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing... in the name of God, go."

My prosaic message to ministers, Sir Philip said, "is this: In the name of common sense, go and have a good holiday, go and paddle on the beach, go and read the excellent thriller by our colleague, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland" (Douglas Hurd).

What the whole top pay episode had shown, Sir Philip concluded, was that the Government needed a bit of a rest.

Some of them, of course, are destined for a rather longer rest than they would wish. Peter Rens, the Chief

The Day in Politics, page 6

Secretary to the Treasury, who took the first blast of the top pay campaign, is the popular Westminster tip to join Mrs Thatcher's distinguished disarray pile.

But the Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, is feeling vulnerable, too. Making yet another statement on the rate support grant in the House yesterday, he assured MPs that his latest plans were still only provisional, and would not reach final form till December.

"You will certainly have plenty of opportunities," he told them, "to savage whoever is standing at the despatch box then."

Was this a leak of a known intention? Probably not. More likely just a shrewd guess by Jenkin's spine.

The Prime Minister is beginning her own period of rest by flying off to America for the founding jamboree of an organisation of rightwing political leaders, the Conservative Intellectuals' Association. As Labour's Dave Nellist dubbed it yesterday, Roy Hattersley gave her a few thoughts on recent events in South Africa to take away with her.

He wanted emotions. She, quoting at length from Henry St. John, thought they would not work and could be counter-productive. You are utterly incapable, he told her, of understanding the importance of giving a moral lead.

The Tories love him when he's like this. John Biffen on Wednesday, had quoted Harold Macmillan's division of politicians into two main classes—the bootlickers and the bishops. Roy Hattersley, he said, was the happy combination of looking like both, on alternate days. "He's a bishop today," the Tories told each other as he poured his moral outrage all over Mr. T.

President Reagan's voice, said a story in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, "is a little hoarse." If public speakers are now to be assessed, like ancient cars, in terms of horsepower, Geoffrey Dickson (C. Littleborough) (Saddleworth) is a piston of rambling stallions at the very least.

The target of his outrage yesterday was the Duke of Edinburgh, who had given his name and authority to a report recommending that tax relief on mortgages should go.

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## Police chiefs push for motorway safety

## Call for confiscation of dangerous drivers' cars

By Paul Keel  
A report commissioned by the Department of Transport yesterday that the cars of some people convicted of serious driving offences should be confiscated.

The Oxford-based study group, headed by Dr Peter North, of Jesus College, recommends much tougher penalties for those found guilty of dangerous driving. Some offenders should be obliged to undergo "responsibility courses" and manslaughter charges should be laid against drivers who cause death by dangerous driving.

The Association of Chief Police Officers announced yesterday that it is to hold a national motorway safety campaign on all motorways in England and Wales next month in an attempt to reduce the annual toll of deaths and serious injuries.

During 1984 there were 4,073 accidents on motorways causing death or serious injury. The ACPO's campaign will take place between August 1-11—the peak period for motorway traffic, and the time when most accidents happen. The emphasis will be on education, with all 36 police forces in England and Wales responsible for policing motorways giving exhibitions at service areas and offering advice to individual motorists.

The ACPO said yesterday that the first priority when setting out on a motorway was for the driver to know the route. It was very dangerous for drivers to make last-second decisions about leaving a motorway.

Once on the motorway, a driver should leave at least a two-second gap between himself and the vehicle in front. A recent survey found that 25 per cent of drivers left less than that, giving themselves little chance of avoiding the vehicle in front in an emergency.

The campaign, featuring videos on motorway safety, will also emphasise the importance of lane discipline, vehicle checks, and driver fitness.

Among Dr North's proposals are the use of probation and community service orders for some driving offenders, and more re-testing.

Fines for traffic offences should be more closely related to the ability of the offender to pay, and wider powers should be given to the courts to ban the use of vehicles considered dangerous, or even to confiscate them.

The questions raised by the survey "causing death by reckless driving" follow concern that guilty motorists escape with a driving ban and a fine because of difficulty in proving that their driving was reckless.

"The public sense of injustice generated by cases in this category can be substantial," says the report. The study group who are inviting responses from the public about their suggestions, note that most traffic laws were drawn up in 1930, when there were just over 3 million vehicles on Britain's roads—compared with 20 million last year.

Mr Tony Lee, the RAC public affairs director, said of the report: "The main objective must be to criminalise the less serious offences and to concentrate on tougher action against the more serious offenders who cause extreme dangers to other road-users."



Saudi Arabian prince Mashour Bin Saud Abdul Aziz, who was remanded on £150,000 bail until August 22 at Marylebone magistrates' court yesterday on a charge of conspiring to supply cocaine.

## Court slip-up hits extradition hopes

By Paul Brown  
The release of John Quinn by a London magistrate after a three-year battle for his extradition from Ireland has led to political embarrassment in Dublin and London.

With extradition of criminals who claim political motives being debated in Ireland, Quinn's release could not have come at a worse time.

Although Quinn, aged 38, was charged with obtaining £600 from a London bank in 1980 he was said to be a fundraiser for the Irish National Liberation Army, which admitted responsibility for the murder of the Conservative MP, Mr Airey Neave at the House of Commons.

A Special branch had high hopes of gaining valuable information from him but he was released after his lawyer, Mr Michael Fisher, argued that there had been an unjustifiable delay by the prosecution. The Director of Public Prosecutions sent senior Treasury counsel to ask a High Court judge to order Quinn's rearrest. This was done but special branch missed Quinn by 10 minutes at Heathrow and he has gone into hiding in Dublin.

Earlier this week two Catholic women lost their jobs at a restaurant in the town after their Protestant employer received a second threatening letter signed "Loyalists of Cookstown."

The outbreak of sectarianism follows clashes between Loyalists and police when marchers were stopped from parading through a Catholic estate on the outskirts of the small market town.

The home of two police women on a Protestant estate was attacked by stone-throwing and petrol-bombers, and it is known that some shopkeepers, thought to have been intimidated, are refusing to serve RUC members.

One of the intended recipients is a Church of Ireland clergyman who was sent a poison-pen letter last week threatening that "accidents can happen if he continued to socialise with Roman Catholics or members of the RUC."

## Pit illegal assembly charges left on file

By Michael Parkin  
Five more men involved in disturbances at Rossington colliery, Doncaster, last year had charges of unlawful assembly left on the file at Sheffield Crown Court yesterday after switching their pleas to not guilty.

Judge Alan Simpson said that since they admitted other offences it seemed a waste of time to try the unlawful assembly charges.

Mr Stephen Duffield, prosecuting, said that in view of a similar course taken by the judge on Monday for other defendants from Rossington the prosecution would not proceed on that charge.

Eleven men, including the five on the unlawful assembly charge, admitted a series of other offences.

Mr Duffield said there had been widespread looting and damage at Rossington.

The five men accused of unlawful assembly were Peter Cooney, aged 28, unemployed; Anthony Rossiter, 16, unemployed; Kevin Comfort, 23, sacked by the colliery for misconduct; Colin Whittle, 27, also sacked for misconduct; and George Arundel, 24, also dismissed for misconduct. All live in Rossington.

Cooney was sent to prison for a total of six months for taking away an NCB van, setting fire to it and burglary. Rossiter, also charged with the arson, received six months.

Comfort was ordered to do community service for burglary and Whittle received three months' imprisonment for burglary and taking a van. Sentences on Arundel, charged with burglary and handling stolen goods, was deferred until Monday.

Other sentences passed were: community service for Harry Barwick, 36, for burglary; fines totalling £100 on David Smith, 25, for burglary and taking a van; £50 fine on Neil Griffiths, 23, for taking a van; £75 fine on Anthony Gaffney, 24, for dishonest handling; and £100 fine on Graham Williams, 30, for theft.

Sentence was deferred until Monday on Michael James, 28, on two charges of burglary. All six live in Rossington.

Judge Simpson said that many people involved in the Rossington colliery incidents had not been caught.

The sentences reflected the fact that the men had pleaded guilty and that they had been waiting a year to appear in court.

## Drowning inquiry ordered



Adrian Wright: died in 'safe' swimming area

By Penny Choriton

A social worker employed by Southwark Council in London has been suspended pending an inquiry into how a six-year-old boy drowned in Hyde Park on Wednesday.

The council has also banned the use of relief social workers from the agency which supplied a second person to chaperone the children on their day's outing.

The council also said last night that it had cancelled all water trips until the investigation was complete and its report has been presented to an emergency meeting of the social services committee, probably next Friday.

Adrian Wright, aged six, from Walworth, was found floating face down in the Lido, the section of the Serpentine which is cordoned off for safe swimming during the summer months.

"What we want to find out is how this could have happened when there were about 400 people around, plus lifeguards, plus two social workers for a group of seven children," said a council spokesman.

Adrian had been taken to Hyde Park on an outing arranged by the council's Children Day Centre. He had been in the care of the social services and had recently been returned to his single-parent mother. The council said he had been out for the day to give his parents a break during the school holidays. His mother was on a trip to Margate, organised by the same centre.

## Drug addict seeks her baby back

A mother whose 18-week-old daughter is said to have suffered drug withdrawal symptoms after birth because of her parents' addiction told a juvenile court at Reading yesterday that she wanted to give up drugs and have the baby back.

Berkshire County Council is seeking a full order on the baby, citing ill-treatment before birth as one of the grounds. The baby suffered from heroin and methadone withdrawal symptoms, the court has heard, and an interim care order was made in May.

The 29-year-old mother told the court yesterday: "I want to do is to get off drugs and to have my daughter with me. She admitted that she and her husband might not be in a position to resume the care of their daughter at present, but the Maudsley centre for drug addiction in London, had offered them a detoxification programme.

"I know that it won't be easy but I have no doubts that, with help, I will be able to conquer my addiction. I have not had the incentive to stop that I have now—a little baby daughter."

The court heard that the mother did not know she was pregnant until two months before the baby was born five weeks prematurely.

The mother claimed that she had never been addicted to heroin but was a regular user of methadone, and had continued to inject herself after she knew that she was pregnant.

Dr Harjeet-Singh Bindra, told the court that the woman had gone to his surgery last August and asked to be referred to a fertility clinic.

The mother said that a specialist at St Thomas's Hospital in London had confirmed that she was pregnant, but his decision was reversed.

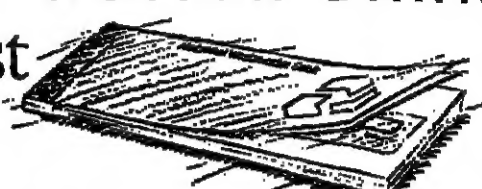
Mr Timothy Hammick, the solicitor representing the parents, said that with the mother's agreement Dr Bindra had prescribed a low dosage of methadone as a substitute for her normal drug intake.

Her daughter was born on March 12, suffering from the effects of narcotics withdrawal. The hearing continues.

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## £2m is repaid by drug company

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

A multinational drug firm has repaid the health service £2 million in excess profits after a Department of Health investigation into transfer prices, the Commons Public Accounts Committee reported yesterday. The refund is the first fruit of the department's clampdown on multinationals which transfer profits out of the UK by artificially inflating prices of raw materials to their British subsidiaries.

The company, which is not named, has been obliged to repay £1 million a year over the past two years, the committee was told by Mr John Long, the Department of Health official in charge of drug company prices and profits.

The PAC has been pressing the Department of Health to act on transfer prices since 1978. The department has now hired a senior accountant from a private firm to help to investigate prices.

Sir Kenneth Stowe, the department's permanent secretary, was unable to assure the committee that transfer prices were "reasonable."

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The Archbishop of Canterbury with two bishops outside St Paul's Cathedral after they had been consecrated yesterday. They are the Venerable Wilfred Wood, aged 49, Archdeacon of Southwark, who becomes suffragan Bishop of Croydon, and the Reverend Canon Colin Buchanan, 50, principal of St John's College, Nottingham, who becomes Bishop of Aston.

## Rising costs 'may force more health cuts'

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

More cuts in services to patients may be on the way, the National Association of Health Authorities said yesterday. The Government's cash increase for hospitals and community health services will not be enough to cope with pay rises or the rising numbers of elderly people, the association said in its annual economic review of the NHS.

Districts which lose under the Resource Allocation Working Party scheme for equalising resources, particularly those in inner London, will face severe problems, with de-

prived areas which are supposed to benefit finding it difficult to improve services. Lack of finance will jeopardise the Government's policy of moving mentally ill and handicapped patients out of the old long-stay hospitals.

The review says that the state of hospital buildings has worsened since the Ciri Davies report in 1983 estimated that £2 billion was needed to bring them up to a minimum acceptable standard.

The NAAHA analysis contradicts the claim by the Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, that the NHS is better off than ever.

The service needs an extra 1 per cent each year to keep pace with demographic pressures and an extra 0.5 per cent for technological improvements.

Since the Government came to power, the minimum target has only been met in 1981-2. This year's £521 million (5.7 per cent) cash increase for hospitals and community health services assumes a 4.5 per cent increase in pay and prices, and allows £109 million for demographic changes.

Inflation is running at 7 per cent, so the money health authorities can use to cope with demographic changes is likely to be cut to £60 million the

NAAHA calculates. The Government's refusal to fund the doctors' and nurses' pay rise means that if the increases for other health workers exceed 3 per cent the demographic allowance will suffer yet again.

Clerical administrative and ancillary staff have already rejected rises of 4.4-7 per cent. So the money needed to treat elderly people this year is likely to be cut to less than £35 million.

NHS Economic Review 1985 price £5 (non-members) £4.50 (members) from NAAHA, Garth House, 47, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham.

## Call to abolish tax relief on mortgages

A HOUSING allowance, based on need and financed by the abolition of existing mortgage interest relief, is the main recommendation of the Inquiry into British Housing chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The committee, which claims that its proposals would not cause any increase in total public spending, also recommends a system of controlled rents related to the capital value of house and flats. It says that this would increase choice and stimulate private investment in rented accommodation. Additional measures are put forward to improve the condition of existing housing.

The Duke's committee stresses that its recommendations should be implemented as a whole rather than as a series of separate options. It suggests that the changes could begin to be introduced within two or three years and phased in over a decade.

The report claims that in the long term it is possible to get rid of homelessness, overcrowding and squalid housing by new building, renovation, and better use of empty and under-used property. "Few individuals can fulfil their true potential and our society cannot become a harmonious whole while large numbers of people are homeless or living in totally unsatisfactory conditions," it says.

While most people are decently housed, many on low or limited incomes are facing increasing difficulties in finding a home. Fewer new houses are being built and more are in serious disrepair. Most households have no real choice of tenure: the poor are obliged to become tenants, the middle class, and the better off must buy.

The report says that mortgage interest relief benefits most those least in need, many on low incomes, and reaches only 55 per cent of owner-occupiers. If it is



John Ardill on the housing allowance and other proposals of the Duke's committee

phased out by progressive reduction of the sum on which relief could be claimed or the withdrawal of relief on anything above the basic tax band, with progressive withdrawal of the remainder, there should be little impact on the housing market and family incomes. Those on or below average earnings should be better off with the new allowance.

The allowance would be available to tenants and owners; would be related to household income, and would cover rent, mortgage and maintenance. It would vary regionally, but all households with income below a defined level would qualify for the maximum.

The report points out that current individual subsidies cost some £3 billion a year. Although the new allowance would cost much more, the abolition of mortgage interest relief would release more than £3.5 billion a year.

New rented accommodation is needed at the rate of 80,000 to 100,000 houses a year, compared with the current provision of under

50,000. The gap could be closed by private funding as long as Treasury conventions do not dictate that all such investments must be counted as adding to the public sector borrowing requirement.

Rents on public and private housing would be calculated to give a return of about 4 per cent on capital value, to encourage investment, with further element to cover maintenance and management.

Council rents would rise by some 2 per cent in real terms. Surpluses accruing to some local authorities would be redistributed to others by a levy.

The report says that owner-occupiers should be encouraged and helped to let surplus rooms. There should be no rent control, repossession should be simplified, and rents should be exempted from income tax. Additional rented housing should be funded by financial institutions through independent housing bonds or units and managed by "approved" landlords, including housing associations, co-operatives and property companies.

Owners should be primarily responsible for the maintenance, repair and improvement of private housing but government should provide a legal, financial and administrative framework of assistance. Grants should be channelled to those most in need, particularly the old and poor.

Local authorities should become the "co-ordinators and enablers" of housing activity, assessing need, planning strategies to meet it and enforcing standards. They should continue to be the "providers of last resort" but in partnership with other landlords.

Inquiry into British Housing. Available from: National Federation of Housing Associations 175, Gresham Street, London EC2A 3DF. £4.95.

## Fire gear 'ruled out' by soccer hooligans

By Malcolm Piters

Football hooliganism makes it impossible to leave fire-fighting gear in stands like the one at Bradford which burned down, killing 56 people, the club's chairman, Mr Stafford Heginbotham, told the inquest into the deaths yesterday.

Asked by the coroner, Mr James Turnbull, whether fire-fighting gear would have been installed if re-roofing of the stand planned to begin after the blaze had been carried out, Mr Heginbotham said: "The subject, to my knowledge, had never been discussed."

Questioned by the jury's foreman about the lack of safety discussions, Mr Heginbotham said that previous times had not been considered by the directors because they did not believe that the safety regulations for designated grounds applied to them.

Promotion to the Second Division made them aware that a great deal of repair was needed, and three days before the fire there had been discussion with council officials where improvements were estimated at £2 million.

Mr Heginbotham said that no one in their right mind during the present climate of hooliganism would leave fire extinguishers and hose about.

Mr Heginbotham said the club had replaced floodlights and had spent £25,000 on a new drainage system. During the re-roofing of the main stand they would have ripped out the remaining seats and done more re-concreting in the stand area.

He said he was deeply saddened by the death.

A supporter who did not give evidence to the Popplewell inquiry, Anthony Pearson, aged 16, from Bradford, told the inquest that he had seen an object thrown in the area of the fire only a minute before it began.

The object had been a couple of inches in length and cylindrical. "It landed on ground where the seats were and a lad said, 'Can you smell something burning?' Then I saw smoke."

The coroner questioned Ian Trueman, a Daily Star reporter who was criticised during the Popplewell inquiry about a personal report he wrote for his newspaper.

He had reported seeing a smoke bomb thrown and was asked whether he had been reporting what he really believed he saw. Mr Trueman said: "I had no reason to sensationalise this issue whatsoever. I only reported what I saw."

The inquest continues today.

Stafford Heginbotham — 'safety rules never discussed'

## 'I hit PC' Marsh's son tells court

THE son of the former Labour minister and British Rail chairman, Lord Marsh, said he realised that evening he might lead to his being prosecuted, "but I would feel bad if I didn't."

After hearing Mr Marsh's evidence, the court ordered a retrial for Colin Charles Tall, 18, of Woolwich, London, on a charge of assaulting the policeman, causing actual bodily harm.

Tall's conviction and a nine-month youth custody sentence passed at Inner London Crown Court on May 13 were quashed. He had been on bail pending yesterday's appeal.

Mr Marsh, a Christian supporter, of Woolwich, said the disturbance took place at the club's ground when his team were playing Portsmouth last September.

Mr Marsh said he had gone to help a friend and was hit in the face. "Immediately after, I felt a hand on my shoulder. Without thinking I kicked him. When I turned round I saw it was a policeman." He pushed him away and pushed his way back through the crowd to the terraces.

## Council ban on rugby club illegal

Leicester City Council acted unlawfully in banning its players from the city's premier rugby club, the Tigers, because three players joined an England tour of South Africa, the House of Lords ruled in London yesterday.

Five law lords unanimously allowed an appeal by Leicester Rugby Union Football Club and granted an order quashing a year's ban imposed last August preventing the club using the council's Welford Road ground for its matches.

The club, founded in 1880, had carried out large-scale improvements at the ground, which it had been using for matches, other than first team, and training since the war.

The council was ordered to pay the club's costs of £10,000 and previous hearings in the Court of Appeal and High Court.

Giving judgment, Lord Templeman said that the club was not entitled to withdraw facilities because the club had done nothing wrong. Lord Templeman said he personally shared the council's view that the 1994 tour of South Africa would endorse the racist policies of the South African government. But there were two views about the tour among opponents of apartheid.

The Leicester club, said Lord Templeman, did not support apartheid.

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## Austrian wine tested

The 10 leading importers of Austrian wine have submitted samples to the Ministry of Agriculture for testing in an effort to assure the public that their wines are safe.

The Austrian Wine Importers' Association said that the contaminated wine scare could well force some firms out of business.

Four bottles of wine in South Yorkshire have been found to contain diethylene glycol, an illegal sweetener also used in anti-freeze.

## Straw burn ban rejected

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

A ban on straw and stubble burning in the fields is simply not realistic at present, the Government believes.

Launching the Ministry of Agriculture's annual campaign to persuade farmers to burn straw responsibly, Lord Belstead, minister of state, ruled out a ban but reminded farmers that bylaws introduced last summer could face fines of up to £2,000 for unsafe burning.

Six million tons of straw are burnt in Britain each year, and the minister said that leave this quantity lying

around in the fields would create an unacceptable risk of accidental fire. The ministry is spending £2 million a year trying to find alternative uses for straw.

Pressure for a ban on burning has grown this year, in spite of a drop in the number of complaints from the public after last year's harvest.

Last week 100 MPs, parties signed a motion of all for a ban from 1990, a rallying device for the National Society for Clean Air.

This year's Ministry of Agriculture campaign aimed at farmers will run under the slogan: "Don't get your straw burnt."

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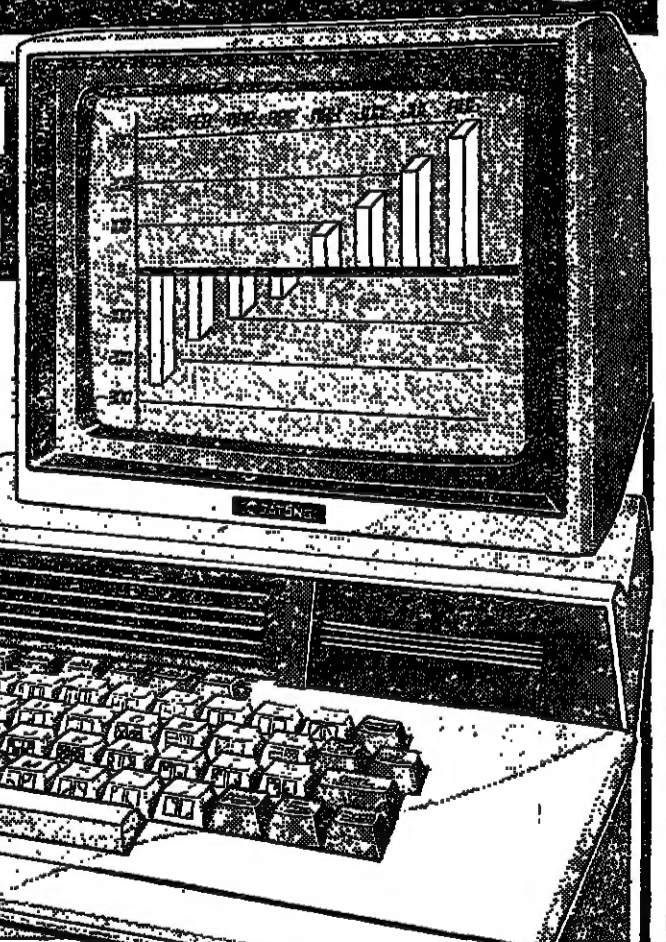
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one of the former Labour minister and British ambassador, Lord Mark, said to a court yesterday it was he, and not any one else, who gave a policeman the "sucker" which

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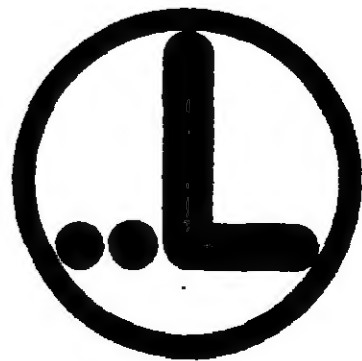
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## Joint slate for Shadow Cabinet elections could bring left shift

By Colin Brown

Mr Neil Kinnock's Shadow Cabinet could be radically moved to the left in forthcoming elections if the Tribune and Campaign groups stick to the joint slate which they published yesterday.

Among the Shadow Cabinet members who could be at risk from the combined 90 votes of the two groups are Mr Donald Dewar (who got 75 votes last year); Mr Giles Radice (81), the education spokesman; Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (88), the transport spokesman; Mr Barry Jones (89), Welsh affairs; Mr Peter Archer (93), Northern Ireland; and Mr Peter Shore (99), the Shadow Leader of the House.

But the left's agreed slate of 12 names could still break down if the MPs belonging to the two groups do not stick to the list. To impose some discipline the Campaign group have agreed that their 38 MPs should register their voting intentions on a list which will be published. The Tribune group have balked at this but some of their members have agreed to submit to the Campaign register.

The right believe that the left will be unable to deliver

their maximum vote. They point out that the left's slate was only reached after an acrimonious dispute over the Tribune group's insistence that Mr Robin Cook should be one of four Shadow Cabinet members included on the list.

The Campaign group were reluctant to do this because some of their members argued that, since becoming head of the party's campaigning organisation he had been made a "captive of the Right." Having squeezed into the Shadow Cabinet in fifteenth place last year with 71 votes, his seat was most at risk. While the Campaign group believe they can deliver, they are doubtful about the Tribune group sticking to the agreement.

There is little doubt that some members of the Tribune group may find it hard to vote for Mr Tony Benn, whose inclusion in the Shadow Cabinet could present Mr Kinnock with some problems. Mr Benn secured only 60 votes last year and missed a Shadow Cabinet place by coming in seventeenth position.

The left agreed to an initial slate of six names (including five campaign members): Mr Benn, Mr Stuart Holland, Mr



AT RISK (top, left to right): Mr Giles Radice, Mr Barry Jones, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody; (bottom, left to right) Mr Donald Dewar, Mr Peter Shore, Mr Peter Archer



Michael Mescher, Miss Jo Richardson, Mr John Prescott (a Tribune member who has Campaign support) and Mr Gavin Strang. In a compromise Mr Stan Orme and Mr Robin Cook were added. Two further Campaign names were subsequently added — Mr Tam Dalyell and Mrs Margaret Beckett. The Tribune group is now balloting on the final two names which it is submitting to the list, but there are likely to be Mr Bob Hughes and Mr Norman Buchan.

The Campaign group yesterday expressed great satisfaction at having managed to include nine of its members in the list of 12 and it was generally accepted that even if the full complement of 90 votes is not delivered there will still be changes to the Shadow Cabinet in the elections for which the nominations open on October 17.

The right-wing Solidarity group yesterday issued its own slate of 19 candidates: Mr Gerald Kaufman, Mr Denis

Healey, Mr John Cunningham, Mr John Smith, Mr Peter Shore, Mr Peter Archer, Mr Barry Jones, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Mr Giles Radice, Mr Donald Dewar, Mr David Clark, Mr Terry Davis, Mr Brynmor Jones, Mr John Morris and Mr George Robertson. They also are nominating five candidates for the National Executive Committee elections at the party conference: Mr Kaufman, Mr Shore, Mr Robertson, Mr Radice, and Mr Jack Ashley.

### SOUTH AFRICA

## Thatcher firm on sanctions

By Alan Travis

THE PRIME MINISTER yesterday rejected a Labour call for economic sanctions against South Africa.

She was pressed in the Commons by Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, to follow the advice of the US Congress and Senate in banning new investment there.

He also urged her to withdraw the British ambassador from Pretoria.

The Prime Minister cited Mrs Helen Sumner, a leading white South African opposition politician, to back her view that sanctions would be counter-productive and harm the economic interests of the country's blacks.

"While these events are taking place in South Africa it is extremely important that we have first-hand reviews of them from our ambassador there."

Mr Hattersley said this was the feeblest sort of excuse. He added: "I have no doubt that the Prime Minister actually believes her answer because she cannot accept the importance of giving a moral lead on this or any other issue."

## Labour anger over MPs who missed key vote

By Colin Brown

Labour MPs protested last night at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party about the absence of 17 backbenchers who could have tied the vote over the top salaries review pay awards in the Commons early on Wednesday morning.

Labour whips have since tried to limit the recriminations against the 17 to avoid the parliamentary party indulging in a squabble which could deflect attention away from the Government's own inept performance.

But the anger was still simmering yesterday among some Labour MPs, who pointed out that with 17 extra votes the vote would have been tied and the Speaker would have been obliged to cast his vote for the status quo, halting approval of the pay rises for top people and inflicting a serious setback on the Government.

The Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Mr Roy Hattersley, sought to subside some of the anger at the PLP meeting expressed by Mrs Ann Clwyd by emphasising that letters had been sent out to the 17 demanding an explanation for their absence and stating that they would have to see the chief whip to discuss it.

Mr Hattersley also insisted yesterday that even with the 17 votes of the Labour MPs who were absent, the Opposition could not have defeated the Government. The chairman of the PLP, Mr Jack Drommond said, "We think we could not have won the vote, but what

we are really concerned about is to let our colleagues in the PLP see that we are as concerned as they are about the 17 people not being present for what was a very important vote."

A further 30 Labour MPs were also absent, but had been granted permission from the whips not to attend the vote. There are bound to be continuing criticisms of the whips for allowing some to leave Parliament on the night of the vote.

It emerged that 17 Labour MPs took part in one vote at 10 pm but were absent at 5 am, but some of these had been given permission to leave. They included the health spokesman Mr Frank Dobson, who caught a midnight train for a party event in New York. He was specifically given permission to be absent and said yesterday he would have stayed had his whip asked him to do so.

There is, therefore, not only criticism of the 17 who were absent without leave but anger about the whips for not retelling the closeness of the vote which could have resulted in the worst bloody nose the Government has suffered since taking office.

The chief whip, Mr Michael Cooks, who is standing down in the autumn, was absent from yesterday's PLP meeting because he was attending the annual general meeting of his constituency Labour party, in which there are moves afoot by some Labour supporters to unseat him.

## Libel action will be 'vigorously contested'

### BANK COLLAPSE

By Alan Travis

The libel writ issued earlier this week against Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, by the former auditors of the Johnson Matthey bank will be most vigorously contested the Treasury Minister, Mr Ian Stewart, told the Commons yesterday.

He refused to say whether any taxpayers' money would be used to foot the legal bills in the case when pressed by Mr Denis Skinner (Lab, Bolton).

"He told MPs during question time that the writ had been issued by the former auditors — Arthur Young, McClelland, Moore — in response to a writ claiming damages against them issued by the Bank of England, which rescued JMB when it collapsed with £2.48 million losses last year."

"I can tell the House that the writ would be most vigorously contested," said Mr Stewart.

He was replying to Mr Skinner, who had said: "If the Chancellor is prepared to use the taxpayer's money to use the tune of more than £100 million

for the rescue then it must be wrong for the taxpayers to foot the bill for the legal expenses arising out of the writ." Mr David Alton (L, Mossley Hill) asked how many heads had rolled in the Bank of England in view of the rescue of JMB. He said that the Chancellor had told the House that they were too busy to look into gaps in JMB's records.

"Why did he not call in outside assistance?" Mr Stewart insisted that internal staff matters were for the Governor of the Bank of England. He denied that the Chancellor had said that they were too busy, but he explained that the affairs of JMB were in such a chaotic state that it took a long time to sort out and establish the gaps in the documentation.

Arthur Young issued the writ, claiming damages for alleged defamation by Mr Lawson in remarks he made during Channel 4 TV television and BBC Radio 4 interviews on June 20. The interviews followed Mr Lawson's statement to the Commons that day when he announced a series of measures including tightening of banking laws to prevent a repetition of the JMB affair.

### BUREAUCRACY

## Victory over 'bumf'

By Alan Travis

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday claimed a minor victory in its battle against the mountain of paper which emanates from Whitehall.

Lord Gower, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said last night that 4,000 forms had been abolished during the last year out of the total of 104,000 government forms in use by departments.

A further 8,000 forms had been improved. Among them were the personal application for grants, the notice claiming the right to buy council or other public housing, householder language has been simplified in others.

In the rolling review of government forms in the last three years, one-third of government forms have been abolished. So far 15 of the 23 government departments have now reviewed all their forms or will have done so by the end of the year. The Government claims that just over £4 million was saved during the last 12 months as a result of the exercise.

### CONTAMINATION

## Staff in hot water

By John Carroll

WEAKNESSES in the management of the Parliamentary Works Office are revealed in a report yesterday on the contamination of the water supply in Westminster's Norman Shaw Building.

Sir George Young, junior, environmental minister, said yesterday that investigation had established that anti-corrosion chemicals were accidentally poured into the wrong water tank in the building for the chance parties.

ing which is used for MPs' offices. The result was that several secretaries for ill health month after drinking contaminated water.

Sir George said that disciplinary action was being considered against staff. The report criticised communica-



Sir George: 'Disciplinary action considered'

tion in the Parliamentary Works Office and the Serious at Arms department.

Action taken to prevent a similar accident include the ordering of chemical dosing equipment for the boilers, a check that all outlets marked "drinking water" are supplied from a drinking main and that warning labels marked "not for drinking" are made for top at work, having which are not supplied directly from a drinking main.

### REFORM GROUP

## Tory call for jobs

By Colin Brown

THE Tory Reform Group yesterday called for further measures by the Government to reduce unemployment.

The chairman of the group, Mr Ian Paton, said in his journal, *Reform*, that despite the welcome drop in the June unemployment figures, the number of unemployed would continue to rise. The enterprising nature proposals by Lord Young were welcome but not enough, he added.

Mr Paton also said that the employment incentives launched recently as an all-party initiative to lobby the Government on reducing the unemployment total should not become a Trojan horse for the chance parties.

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North may be cut off ahead of the elections

# Blow for Obote as town falls and army split widens

By a Special Correspondent

Rebels fighting the Government of President Milton Obote in Uganda seized the eastern town of Fort Portal yesterday while a tribal rebellion within the government army threatened to cut off the north of the country, according to Ugandan and Western sources in Kampala.

The developments posed the most serious threat yet to President Obote who returned to power for the second time in 1980 after eight years in exile. A general election is due later this year and voter registration was planned to start next week.

There has been a high level of tension within the Ugandan military since late June. Coup rumours were common earlier this month and Dr Obote did not attend the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. He was overthrown by Idi Amin when he was out of the country at the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore in January 1971.

All roads into northern Uganda have been blocked by rebels from one faction of the army. West Nile, Gulu, Kitgum, and Lira are no longer accessible, according to officials in Kampala.

Fighting began among the government troops on Monday near the Karuma falls where General Tito Okello, the army commander and an Acholi, commands a large army faction. He is opposed by the army Chief of Staff, Smith Opon Akai, who is close to President Obote and is from his Langi tribe.

The Obote forces reportedly made an approach to the former Amin soldiers still living in West Nile or over the border in southern Sudan to fight off the increasing Acholi threat to Dr Obote's Government, but were repulsed, said sources said.

The erosion of Dr Obote's support within his own government intensified after disturbances in the university were brutally suppressed earlier this year, gun-fights between soldiers from Dr Obote's Lango area and those from the army commander's Acholi area, and



a bungled attempt to arrest the Vice-President and Minister of Defence, Mr Paulo Muwanga, on July 8.

Guerrillas led by the former Defence Minister Mr Yoweri Museveni, have been fighting Dr Obote since early 1981. A deeply flawed election returned the President to power without a majority of the country behind him in December 1980.

Since then, persistent reports of torture and massacres by the Ugandan military in rural areas have been detailed by Amnesty International and other sources. British and North Korean military instructors have been powerful in imposing any order or discipline in more than four years of cooperation.

The general insecurity in the country has made it difficult for aid workers or journalists to travel freely in recent

years. Claims by Museveni's National Resistance Army to control a large area around western Uganda have been impossible to verify, although a film made in the "liberated" areas last year made it clear that the guerrillas were numerous, well organised, and had a well-educated leadership.

Their arms supplies have mostly come from deserters from the government army, according to members of the leadership who occasionally travel to London.

Museveni recently travelled to Scandinavia where his visit coincided with that of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania. Museveni was in exile in Tanzania and Mozambique during the Amin period, and began a small-scale guerrilla war to remove Amin before Tanzania sent in the army which brought him down.

## Blacks shot down by police

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

FOUR MORE blacks, including a schoolgirl aged 16, have been shot dead by police, bringing the death toll to 15 since the state of emergency came into operation last Sunday.

Police continued to round-up leaders and members of the United Democratic Front and its affiliates, bringing to nearly 800 the number of people interned.

According to a police statement, the four people were shot dead when police opened fire with shotguns and rifles on a crowd of blacks stoning soldiers on patrol in the township of Daveyton, about 20 miles east of Johannesburg. Sixteen people, three of whom were women, were injured by gunfire, police said.

The clash occurred when the crowd was returning from the funeral of a victim of the unrest. "We were marching along on our way from the cemetery when I heard shots and saw people scattering in all directions," one of the mourners, Ms Elizabeth Mjoli, said.

Funerals of victims have become the major vehicle for mobilising resistance to apartheid, particularly as meetings of 64 organisations were prohibited in 30 districts even before a state of emergency was declared last weekend.

The dead schoolgirl's grandmother, Mrs Sarah Ndebele, said that it was the first time the child had

Leader comment, page 14

attended such a funeral. Her granddaughter was forced to join mourners going to the funeral as they passed her house.

A spokesman for the Detainees Parents Support Committee, which monitors all detentions, yesterday expected the number of detainees to rise to at least 1,000 today. Police lists of detainees were about 36 hours out of date, he said.

The DFCG had reports yesterday of detentions in 36 districts where the emergency applies. Police do not need emergency powers to detain people; several clauses of the Internal Security Act grant them the necessary powers.

According to DFCG records, 100 people were held under the Internal Security Act at the end of last month, of whom nearly three-quarters were held under the clause providing for indefinite detention for interrogation about acts of terrorism.

Scrutiny of the latest list of detainees indicates that several of the UDF national leaders are still at large, believed in hiding since they heard about the imminent declaration of emergency.

The Congress of South African Students has been hardest hit among black organisations. Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Co-operation and Development, has meanwhile told the influential Afrikaans newspaper, Beeld, that reform will gain impetus on all fronts once "law and order is restored".

The Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. Botha, has defended the state of emergency as a means of restoring the reform process, of saving it from destruction by "Marxists" striving to prevent black leaders from playing a constructive role in the new constitutional dispensation.

Gold shares slumped on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the rand dropped sharply yesterday, reflecting foreign investors' renewed unease about the emergency. On the London foreign exchange market, one trader said the rand was the only money to show movement to show movement.

"People jumped on the bandwagon when they saw it dropping,"

## SA emergency sparks protests

Pressure mounts on White House for a policy change 'beyond pious words'

From Alex Brommer in Washington

THE SOUTH African emergency has provoked a revision in the US, leading to big demonstrations outside the Pretoria embassy, large-scale arrests, and renewed efforts on Capitol Hill to pass sanctions legislation.

Police arrested 43 protesters here at the latest demonstration outside the embassy in which more than 1,500 Americans, including civil rights leaders, protested against Pretoria's racial policies. Among those arrested was Mr John Jacob, the president of the National Urban League, one of the more moderate of American civil rights groups.

In a ringing call to the Administration to change its policies towards Pretoria, Mr Jacob said: "We call on the American Government to move beyond pious words to immediate action to put the screws on South Africa's racism." While the White House has said that apartheid is responsible for the continued violence in South Africa, the State Department says that it is maintaining its policy of "constructive

engagement" and remains opposed to economic sanctions. The state of emergency has put fresh life into the street protests which have been taking place outside the South African embassy here since last November. "There has been a resurgence of fervour," said Ms Lisa Croom, of the Washington Office on Africa whose group has been lobbying hard for sanctions on Capitol Hill in the latest protests, adding: "representing those killed in violence — are being piled up

David Berestford, page 15

on the carefully manicured grass verges of Massachusetts Avenue — Washington's embassy row.

Until last week, some 2,900 people had been arrested during the last eight months outside the embassy and at more than 4,000 demonstrations at cities and university campuses around the country. With the latest arrests and resurgence in numbers of protesters, Congress is coming under strong pressure to take early action on reconciling the Senate and House versions of sanctions legislation.

Leaders in the Democratic-controlled House are urging an early meeting of the conference committee of both houses to reconcile differences between the tougher House bill and the milder Senate version. But members of the staff of Senator Richard Lugar, the Republican chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, are trying to slow matters down, preferring not to act against the background of the present emergency.

The Senate bill, passed on June 11, would ban new bank loans and the export of nuclear technology to South Africa, and would require American companies with interests in the country to take an active stand against apartheid. The House version would go further, banning the \$500-million-a-year sale of Kruggerands in the US.

Some activists are reluctant, however, to push too hard for sanctions during the emergency for fear of giving the more conservative Senate an excuse for blocking action this year. They would prefer to wait until the scheduled conference after the August recess so that the legislation can be

steered through in a more orderly way.

The Administration, while complaining about the state of emergency, appears reluctant to deepen the rift with Pretoria, symbolised by the recall of its ambassador. The State Department said that its goals remain unchanged, "promoting peaceful change away from apartheid, reducing cross-border violence, bringing about the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola."

The guiding hand behind the embassy protests, Mr Randall Robinson of TransAfrica said yesterday: "The people involved (in the protests) are prepared to go on as many months or years as necessary to bring about a change in American policy."

The demonstrations and the congressional action they have helped generate has raised the consciousness of Americans on the issue of apartheid. The latest polling, done before the start of the emergency, showed that some 62 per cent of Americans were conscious of the picketing against apartheid against 50 per cent a few months earlier.



On the ball: Township children at Alexandra, near Johannesburg, prepare to take

## French withdrawal Kinnock issues new call for sanctions

From Campbell Page in Paris

France's decision to stop new investment in South Africa in protest against apartheid and the present state of emergency will make little impression on the French or on South African economies.

Most reaction here recognises the importance of the decision, which means that the Socialist Prime Minister, Mr Laurent Fabius, and the pressure which the French example will exert on other countries opposed to apartheid, but Le Monde commented yesterday:

"Although extremely symbolic, the French position is of little consequence on the practical level. One can indeed ponder the actual scope of a halt to new French investment. Paris is only a rather secondary financial partner to Pretoria. After all, trade between the two countries will continue in the normal way."

Effective pressure could only come from more important partners and more powerful investors who were to be found in Washington and London, the newspaper said.

Total French investment in South Africa, which will be unaffected by Mr Fabius' decision, stands at £1.5 billion. Last year investment came to a mere £8 million.

The President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg, Mr Bernard Lafitte, said this is not going to change very much, and noted that events in South Africa since Easter had not encouraged many visits by potential investors.

But there are few, if any, signs that this is going to happen, despite the execution of the odd unsuccessful commander. For all its dynamic ruthlessness, the regime of Saddam Hussein has proved to be surprisingly adept at bending to the political realities of his people.

Africa, sent goods, mainly manufactured products, worth \$380 million but received in return mostly coal, uranium and gold, worth \$500 million from South Africa.

Coal imports reached 5.6 million tons and supplied a quarter of France's needs. In the first five months of this year the balance of trade was running at about £70 million in South Africa's favour.

The general secretary of the neo-Gaullist opposition party,

THE second of two nuclear reactors at a French-built power station near Cape Town began feeding power to the national grid yesterday.

RFR, Mr Jacques Toubon, said he was amazed to see Mr Fabius adopting the same views as the French Communist party.

Mr Fabius' announcement is of some importance in the context of domestic politics only eight months before the National Assembly elections. It reaffirms the radical identity of a government often criticised for embracing centrist policies. It may also attract support from Communist sympathisers who had previously accepted their party leadership's disenchantment with socialism in action here.

The Communist leader, Mr Georges Marchais, had called for much stricter measures against South Africa shortly before Mr Fabius' announcement: the freezing of all agreements and contracts under discussion, the banning of all imports from South Africa, and the breaking of all cultural and sporting links.

From Martin Kettle in Dar-es-Salaam

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday called for mandatory sanctions against the South African Government, and a freeze on new investment.

But the Labour leader rejected proposals that Britain should break off diplomatic relations as continued links would be a source of effective pressure on Pretoria. He was speaking at a press conference in Dar-es-Salaam at the end of a four-day visit to Tanzania.

He said that economic action against Pretoria would push South Africa into fundamental changes in its racist policies. Even Conservative opinion in Britain was now beginning to turn against South Africa, Mr Kinnock said.

He called on the Government to recall the British ambassador from Pretoria for consultation. This would emphasise Britain's abhorrence of the state of emergency and it would give the opportunity for the ambassador to learn the true state of British public opinion.

He hoped that a free South Africa would ultimately rejoin the Commonwealth: "I am sure that the Commonwealth nations would embrace a non-racist South Africa."

South Africa dominated his final visit to Tanzania. Mr Kinnock said it was important, however, that the lessons of what was happening today in Africa should focus on the need for systematic and effective action to ailing African economies.

Earlier, Mr Kinnock emphasised the concern for South Africa by visiting a

black South African exiles community project, the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College, at Morogoro, established after the Soweto uprisings of 1976.

The community, which hopes to become self-sufficient, comprises 1,400 exiles farming a 3,500 hectare site provided by the Tanzanian government. Mrs Kinnock was greeted by school children singing songs for the release of the imprisoned African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela.

She met British volunteers as well as helpers from Scandinavian countries and Holland. During a visit to a classroom she told pupils who were studying English: "I hope you will soon be able to return to a free South Africa to continue learning English but not Afrikaans."

● A warning that South Africa was in "an accelerating race to disaster" after the creation of a "storm-trooper state" was delivered in the Commons yesterday by the Shadow foreign secretary, Mr Denis Healey.

Mr Healey, speaking as MPs sat all night, renewed Labour demands for a withdrawal of Britain's ambassador and a ban on new loans and investment in the country.

Mr Healey proposed that Britain withdraw its ambassador, ban new loans and investment, seek a compulsory code of conduct for British firms in South Africa, tighten the arms embargo to shut off the supply of licences and components for aircraft which could be used for military purposes, and make informal contact with the African National Congress.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Vietnam in 'colony plot'

A SENIOR Kampuchean doctor who ran the country's largest hospital, has fled to Thailand to escape what he said were Vietnamese plans to colonise his country.

Dr So Saren, the former vice-president of the Kampuchea-Soviet Friendship Hospital, claimed that the Ta Phraya refugee camp that he had fled from was being sent to unhealthy and insecure border regions to make way for Vietnamese settlers. Dr So fled from Phnom Penh with his wife and six children.—Reuters.

### Burma blast

BURMESE rebels blew up a passenger train, killing 11 people and wounding 112 on the main line between Rangoon and Mandalay, the Burmese News Agency said yesterday. The blast on Wednesday night was caused by a landmine.—Reuters.

### Adverse ads

A DUTCH lorry maker, DAF Trucks has stopped advertising at football grounds in England because of soccer hooliganism. "We saw the billboards on television in the hands of rioting supporters. We like to appear on the screen, but not like that," a spokesman said.—Reuters.

### Clearing bank

HONG KONG may be forced to empty its sperm bank unless its semen deposits can be screened for Aids, the Family Planning Association said yesterday. The director, Peggy Lam, said that equipment to test blood and fresh semen was arriving soon, but unless it could also screen existing sperm the bank would have to be purged.—Reuters.

### Two hanged

TWO MEN sentenced to death for murder by the regional court in Krakow, in southern Poland, have been hanged, the Warsaw daily, Zycie Warszawy, reported. They were Andrzej Nowoslawski and Zdzislaw Grossmann.—Reuters.

### Mud alert

ITALIAN civil defence leaders yesterday sought the immediate removal of a dangerous mountain of mud left by last Friday's dam collapse in the Stava valley which killed more than 200 people. The request was based on local weather reports which showed that a big depression heading for the area.—Reuters.

### Bombing spree

AFTER the death of a bystander in a car bombing outside the American consulate in Santiago, three multinational companies have been hit in a new wave of bombings, writes Malcolm Coward, Chief of the Chilean Manhattan Bank, ITT and Anglo-American were damaged in residential districts of the capital.

### En passant

DUTCH grandmaster, Jan Timman, will meet the Soviet world champion, Anatoly Karpov, in the final round of the Othello International chess tournament here today — a duel that Timman must win to be sure of overall victory.—Reuters.

### Climber killed

A BRITISH climber fell 850 feet to his death on Wednesday on the Monch mountain in the Swiss Alps, police said yesterday. He was David Collins, aged 23, from Buckinghamshire.—Reuters.

### Dog dinner

ANGRY animal lovers have stung more than 80,000 postcards to the Philippine National Assembly urging ban on the sale of dogs and cats for human consumption. The cards show a photograph of a dog being cooked over a barbecue grill.—Reuters.

### Mayor quits

THE MAYOR of Shanghai, Wang Daohuan, has resigned in protest at China's largest city. Mr Wang, aged 70, told a municipal congress on Wednesday that he had quit because the country needed younger people to lead through reforms.—Reuters.

### Nasty business

THE VIDEO nasty movie craze sweeping parts of China is having a serious effect on society and has even caused some primary school students to take to crime, the official Guangming daily said yesterday.—Reuters.

### Ghost town

ABOUT 2,000 coffins may lie beneath a three-block stretch of a residential neighbourhood in New Orleans where startled workmen have discovered human remains less than three feet below the surface. The coffins apparently date to the 1840s and probably were the paupers' graves.—Reuters.

### Paper closes

The Lincolnshire Times closes today after 127 years of publication in the Briggs and north Lincolnshire area. The owners said that economic reasons have forced them to close.

### Cavern death

The body of Bridget Anthony, aged 29, of Coal Aston, Driffield, near Sheffield, has been found at the bottom of the Cavern at Castleton, North Derbyshire. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

## Militants condemn Sikh pact

Amritsar: Sikh militants, calling the settlement between moderates and the Government to resolve the Punjab crisis "a stab in the back," pledged yesterday to continue their "holy war" for greater autonomy.

Troops were placed on full alert yesterday in the state capital, Chandigarh, to head off possible unrest. The alert covered the entire state as well as neighbouring Haryana and Delhi.

The accord, worked out between the Sikh leader, Barchand Singh Longowal and the Prime Minister, Mr Gandhi, recognised the demand of Longowal's party, the Akali Dal, for greater religious and political autonomy. But the pact underlined that a settlement with the party must lie within the framework of a united India.

The 11-point package deal crowned Mr Gandhi's efforts to solve the bitter Hindu-Sikh conflict, a task he set himself after taking office in the wake of his mother Indira's assassination last October.

But there were signs that militant Sikhs would reject the package. Sikh youths paraded the streets of Chandigarh and Amritsar on Wednesday night, shouting anti-Longowal slogans. Atma Singh, a leader of the militant Akali Dal faction opposed to Longowal's pact, said: "It is a sell-out to the Government and we shall not allow the Sikh faith to be sold."

A test of the agreement is expected today in the Punjab town of Amritsar, where Longowal has summoned party leaders for talks. Pro-Longowal groups are rivalled by followers of Joginder Singh, father of extremist Sikh preacher, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who died when troops stormed Amritsar's Golden Temple in June last year.

While the settlement was hailed as "historic" by the Indian press and by national opposition leaders, it spurred resentment in Punjab's two neighbouring states of Haryana and Rajasthan, whose territorial claims were overlooked.

The chief minister of Rajasthan, Haridev Joshi, announced yesterday that his government rejected the accord. In Haryana, the opposition Lok Dal announced that its assemblymen would resign in protest.

In Gujarat state yesterday, the city of Ahmedabad was hit by bomb explosions wounding at least seven people and causing widespread panic.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) agency reported that the series of blasts emptied the city's streets and shops remained shut.

The explosions occurred as police were investigating whether a conspiracy was behind eight days of violence in which at least 40 people have been killed. — AP/Reuters.

## Iran keeps Baghdad guessing in lingering war

As fighting flares, Iraq ponders how to hold the line against human waves

From David Hearst in Baghdad

ONE OF THE anniversaries that Iraqis will be less keen to celebrate this year will be the fifth anniversary of their war with Iran.

The regime of Saddam Hussein may have the tanks, the aircraft, and the money from his nervous Gulf neighbours to hold the line against Iran's human waves of soldiers indefinitely, but Baghdad is fast running out of ideas of how to end them.

Talk of an impending Iranian breakthrough in the mountainous regions of the north may be premature, but there is no doubt that the Iranian tactics of nibbling away at small areas of land along virtually the whole length of the 150 mile front are catching the capacity of the Iraqis to mirror the concentrations of Iranian troops.

They simply do not know where the next attack will come from.

Iran and Iraq yesterday reported an upsurge in fighting

in key sectors of the front.

Outside Baghdad, columns of troops are to be seen scurrying both north to the fighting in Kirkuk and south to the marshlands around Basra. While there is a marked reluctance to resume the high level bombing of Iranian civilian targets in Tehran, which appeared to have an effect on the Iranian population, the present policy of containing Iranian advances appears to yield no greater chance of success.

The Iranians are undeterred by their losses.

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz, appealed in vain for sympathy from the international community when he wrote last week to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar. Mr Aziz claimed that while Iraq had repeatedly expressed its preparedness to end the war on an "honourable and just basis," Iran had consistently refused to accept peace.

In fact, Iran has consistently refused to make peace with Saddam Hussein and it is Ayatollah Khomeini's personal vendetta against the man who expelled him from Iraq as the price of peace with the Shah that presents the biggest obstacle to peace.

It has become a war between two regimes, with each side hoping the other will crumble first.

The Iranians hope that the longer the war continues, the more discontent the Iraqi army, manned increasingly by conscripts, will grow. The Army is the only potential source of opposition capable of ousting the President, whose power base, the Ba'athist Party, is narrow with only 100,000 members.

But there are few, if any, signs that this is going to happen, despite the execution of the odd unsuccessful commander. For all its dynamic ruthlessness, the regime of Saddam Hussein has proved to be surprisingly adept at bending to the political realities of his people.

Both Christians and Kurds are represented in his choice of top ministers. Millions of dinars have been spent on developing the predominantly Shiite region of the south, and in Basra one poster proclaims: "It pictures Saddam standing reverently before the golden gate of the shrine of a mosque. What ever the stringencies of war, Saddam has insisted on spending one million dinars in decorating the nation's mosques in gold leaf."

There are no visible signs of popular discontent on the streets. In Basra, which is closest to the front and sustained at least 600 civilian fatal casualties as a result of Iranian shelling over the last few years, shops are open as usual and cars jam the centre.

Life goes on behind the double rows of sandbags. The only perceptible difference for the city's foreign community staying in Basra's luxury hotel, the Sheraton, is that the sandbags are now

round the bar, as well as the entrance.

Economically, the prolonged war is detrimental but not ruinous. With an estimated \$30 billion of aid provided by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, and Western companies willing to reschedule the debts they are owed, Iraq has continued to build roads, sewage, and water treatment plants, hospitals, airports, and extended its railway network, despite the war.

With its plentiful supplies of new equipment and interminable column of heavy lorries on its roads, Iraq has been funded up to the hilt by its nervous neighbours.

There is a saying in Baghdad that a truck is either new or it has broken down.

But this will not continue indefinitely. Saddam's hope is to increase oil revenues by increasing production from the present level of 1.2 million barrels a day, to the pre-war level of 3 million b/d.

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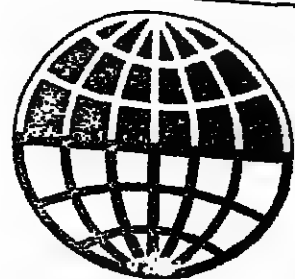
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# THIRD COLUMN

## The guts of power

WHEN the first emperor of China died, unexpectedly away from the capital, his wise prime minister feared that the princes and others might make trouble in the land. So the imperial coffin was brought back in a closed litter, with food and official reports passed in by trusted eunuchs. Because it was summer and the corpse began to rot, the litter was followed by a cart of staked fish to disguise the stench.

Methods of massaging public opinion have developed a good deal since the death of the emperor Qin Shi Huangdi in 208 BC, and much more pleasant odours are now used to disguise unpleasant possibilities. The sudden illness of Mr Reagan, and any possible question which it might provoke about what is called the "black box" of the President's colon by firm-jawed men in grey suits telling us that everything was under control.

What the affair should dramatise is the extreme frailty of an international system whose life or death hangs from the First to the Third World — rests legally on the decision of one man. In 1931, largely because of the hysterical reaction of Secretary of State Alexander Haig, there was a reminder of the part of Mr Reagan's "balloon" (the "black box") was lost for two days. Vice-President Bush had not taken his with him, so nuclear power passed to Secretary of Defence Mr Weinberger who then had a furious row with Mr Haig over raising the alert level of the US nuclear forces.

This time it had all been worked out in advance and the balloon was apparently secured in the hands of the director. Except for the brief period when he surrendered control to Mr Bush, Mr Reagan retained the theoretical ability to launch a nuclear war even in the first grey hours of post-operative recovery.

At least we suppose this to be the case. None of the hard-nosed reporters who asked insistently to be told the length of Mr Reagan's incision seemed to have inquired after these nuclear arrangements. The President's guts are of much greater interest than the inner working of what is technically known as the Command, Control, and Communications.

Whether Mr Reagan, well or otherwise, is the right man to be at the apex of this command pyramid is another unasked question. The "leadership" of the Western world benefits from a suspension of disbelief not always enjoyed by the leaders of other parts of the world. We share the same political culture where a relative degree of openness on secondary issues puts us at the apex of the great unmentionables.

Other countries' presidents have to work hard to be taken seriously in the Western press, especially if they speak in a foreign language very fast, or if they speak in any language about socialism or imperialism. Mr Reagan is labelled the showman, but usually with the journalistic equivalent of an indulgent smile. He benefits from an assumption that he has something serious to say, however he chooses to say it, which is not always enjoyed by Fidel Castro or Julius Nyerere or even Mr Papandreu.

Speculation about the effects of ill health on the leadership in communist or Third World countries is much less inhibited. One of the most striking features of the Reagan cancer story was the shortage of comments from Western governments, who seemed wary even of sending get-well messages in case they might be misinterpreted.

The President of the US has been democratically elected. But he is then free to exercise as much power as Mr Chernomko or Mr Deng Xiaoping, who have not the informal constraints which much the same although hard to predict in advance. Would the Politburo have stopped a paranoid Stalin from launching a nuclear war if he survived into the years of party rule? Would the National Security Council similarly restrain Mr Reagan if he groped for the button in a morphine-induced haze? (Or would the nearest nurse grab his arm?) Perhaps in the end it does not matter, since the general in the Pentagon basement who sits in the "catbird seat", or the other general aloft in the airborne control post called Looking Glass may also have the power to launch.

John Gittings



Image maker and subject — a scene from World in Action's Bhopal special (right) and Channel 4 camera crew at work in Nepal

From famine and other kinds of disaster to relatively unexceptional events, the Western media have problems in making documentaries about the Third World. MICHAEL SIMMONS reports

## More to show than agony of the hungry

FAMINE is by no means new to Ethiopia. Over 1,000 years ago, the Emperor was writing to a friend that "God hath restrained the heavens so that they cannot rain... all our men are dying". The "news" that a BBC television crew broke last October of the latest disaster was not news either. People in the know, some of them writing for this page, had predicted it months and even years before.

What seemed to be new was the close-focus confrontation between suffering people and television cameras, shown to a peak audience at peak viewing time. Not since the end of the Vietnam war had there been such a close-up of the Third World impinged so deeply on First World consciousness.

Children with terminal hunger problems, eyes glazed and possibly no longer caring whether they live or die, may hardly be aware of the "good shots" being sought by the photographer at their feet, but in faraway Addis Ababa — following the famine of 1974 — the Emperor Haile Selassie and his government were topped partly as a result of showing in the outside world of a Jonathan Dimbleby film of the starving.

More recently, the royal court of Saudi Arabia has been shaken by the showing of ITV's Death of a Princess, and India's Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, was furious with Mrs Thatcher after the BBC had shown Sikhs rejoicing at his mother's death.

The spasmodic rather than "serious" interest of the First World in the Third is one which concerns Michael Ryan, who in a Granada TV series, Rich World, Poor World, sought to depict on film the problems thrown up by the Brandt Commission. In his view, Bob Geldof's Live Aid may have "grabbed a guilt nerve", but there are more sophisticated questions that television has to answer. While hunger in Africa or poverty in Bangladesh are "easy" to film, once one tries to depict Brazilian debt or the difficulties inherent in getting a clean water supply somewhere else, then the problems arise.

"But," he claims, "it is the business of TV to confront these problems. We have to open our ears. There is more to hear than the cry of agony of the hungry."

Old hands identify two problems. One has to do with the quality of people making

films about the Third World. The other has to do with "impact". Impact in the suburban sitting-room is good; impact on location can be wrong.

David Collison, director of a forthcoming film on leprosy in Nepal, says: "If you march into a place where they may never even have seen a camera and stay for five weeks, you have an enormous impact. You disrupt the lives of a lot of people. And if it goes wrong, they have to live with the back-wash — for 30 years or more. You have to leave the situation as you found it."

Some directors, in their zeal, clearly do not leave the location, or the host country, as they found them. Some Third World governments, according to Laurie Flynn, who made a recent World in Action "special" on the Bhopal gas disaster, feel they get a thorough "drubbing" from some film-makers. "They regard us," he adds, "as dangerous beasts."

Sensitivity over the filming of extraordinary events extends also to the making of programmes which might be comparatively straightforward. Farrukh Dhondy, a commissioning

editor with Channel 4, says that every time plans to film are submitted — as they have to be — to the authorities in India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh, for instance, there is a reflex reaction from the powers-that-be, and the would-be director's intentions are thoroughly scrutinised.

"The tradition of these authorities," he points out, "is one of heavy guidance or censorship. They expect a certain restraint as a matter of course, and they are also extremely shy about anything which might affect their image."

Third World governments, Dhondy suggests, are often unambiguously against film or television programme makers from the developed countries, and confront them with something like the nationalism with which they once confronted the colonial powers. "These governments," he says, "say everything is all right when in fact everything is not all right."

Not that Channel 4 programme in the From the Face of the Earth series will be devoted to a vivid and sensitively made film set in a leprosy colony. Farly because of the nature of the subject matter, but also partly

because a crew (of seven) was descending on a remote spot of a Third World country, shooting could only begin after a series of complicated negotiations had been completed. These centred at one level on funding: the five-part series has cost about \$1.5m, out of which the leprosy film cost rather less than \$300,000.

But at another level, David Collison, and his team had to spend no less than three weeks haggling with the Nepal authorities before the work could start, and that was only after some preparatory diplomatic spadework had been done by his researcher, Michael Johnstone. It is worth noting that permission to make a film on the same subject had already been turned down by the relevant authorities in Ethiopia and India.

"It took a long time to persuade them that there were no business interests or television programme companies who were going to profit from the film," Collison says.

Even so, documentary-making is about money as much as anything else. Michael Latham, series producer for From the Face of the Earth, sitting in his very "First World" Oxford Street

office, says documentaries do not make money. "If you break even you are doing well. Rain, wind or shine, you have to get out there, film, and get home — otherwise you are broke. Every day you don't shoot is a disaster as far as the budget is concerned."

The hard men and women of journalism, who used to be in newspapers, idiosyncratically scouring the earth with portable typewriters in the search for "scops", are now in television. Some of them will be committed to the notion that there should be more programmes devoted to Third World issues.

Some of these people worry fund raisers and programme controllers alike. Frank Civanovich, an experienced ITV film-maker, argued in the latest IBA yearbook report that "too many people who should really be writing fact-filled stories for the New Statesman are allowed to get their hands on film... Unfortunately, talent and ability are excessively rare. The national conflict that arises between those who would like to see more documentaries being made — who have their supporters at senior levels in both the BBC and ITV — and those who may be misguided

in the sort of films they want to make, there is a strong feeling, in the words of one director, that 'we must move forward from Brandt'."

Tony Isaacs, a respected BBC documentary maker, insists that "despite costs and other problems, we should be doing more" and "Paul Bonner, Channel 4's controller of programmes, says 'We have to find new ways of relating our audience to the problems of the wider world.' Television documentaries in or about the Third World are hardly the most popular viewing. Channel 4, which shows proportionately more such films than any other channel, was watched for around seven per cent of the average viewers' total viewing time.

The school of thought to which Granada's Michael Ryan subscribes, suggests that if First World viewers were as informed about the Sahel as they are, say, about council housing or even the EEC, then a lot of problems would evaporate. The corollary, at controller level, is that all documentary-commissioning has to be done on the crossed-fingers principle, and that anyway "in television, nothing exists until someone gives you eighty grand."

### ANTI-APARTHEID

## The dirty tricks get slicker

Kevin Toolis on South Africa's methods of combating opponents in Britain

THE recent attack on the Anti-Apartheid Movement's London offices is part of a continuing campaign of subversion waged by the South African government against apartheid opposition groups and the African National Congress in Britain, according to Anti-Apartheid Movement leaders.

Last week's arson caused £10,000 worth of structural damage to the north London headquarters of the AAM. Bags and a large volume of flammable liquid were put through the letterbox in the early hours of Tuesday morning and set alight. The fire severely damaged the foyer. Fortunately no campaign materials or office equipment were destroyed.

AAM leaders were in no doubt that the attack was "South Africa inspired" and part of the continuing "dirty tricks" campaign. "We were burgled in May 1983 immediately after we exposed the

Marconi deal. This arson attack came within days of the Birmingham arms trail and immediately after the publication of a detailed 56-page memorandum on arms to South Africa," said Mike Terry, general secretary of AAM.

AAM has of course no way of proving this claim but more sophisticated attempts to counter human rights activities by the parents of those detained under South Africa's emergency legislation. VAT and SFSC still share the same address and box number in Lynchhurst, South Africa. Leontinis openly admitted, at the time, that SFSC used to "consult" Major Williamson on the contents of the organisation's newsletter. "We support the security forces as a whole and if that means the security police, well that is fine," said Leontinis.

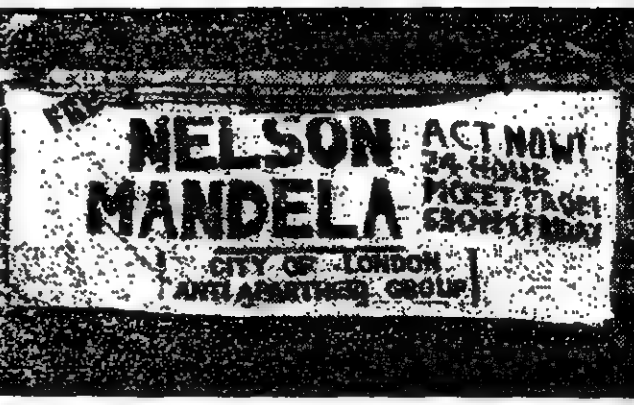
The links between Major Williamson, Leontinis and the SFSC's treasurer Paul

had links with the South African government and described Victims Against Terrorism as "a charitable organisation devoted to informing the news media and the public about the nature of international terrorism."

In spite of his denials, Jonathan Leontinis appears to be linked to the South African intelligence community and the work of the South African spy Major Craig Williamson — believed to have masterminded the 1983 burglary of the ANC's London office. Leontinis was also chairman of a South African security police from organisation, the Security Forces Support Committee set up in 1983 to counter human rights activities by the parents of those detained under South Africa's emergency legislation.

VAT and SFSC still share the same address and box number in Lynchhurst, South Africa. Leontinis openly admitted, at the time, that SFSC used to "consult" Major Williamson on the contents of the organisation's newsletter. "We support the security forces as a whole and if that means the security police, well that is fine," said Leontinis.

The links between Major Williamson, Leontinis and the SFSC's treasurer Paul



London Anti Apartheid in action earlier this year

Amussen, a former security policeman, are extensive. All three attended a school together and have maintained their friendship.

Williamson is also closely associated with the "head" of the international division of VAT, Bertil Wedin, who was charged but later acquitted of the 1983 burglary of ANC's offices. Williamson recruited Wedin in 1980 in South Africa. Two other members of the "dirty tricks" squad were subsequently convicted.

Both ANC and AAM have strongly protested to the Foreign Office over the recognition given to Victims Against Terrorism. In reply the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, claimed the meeting was "part of the Foreign Office's established policy of meeting a wide range of opinion."

### ENVIRONMENT

## Ahead of the field

Kent MacDougall on the world-beating research of the Worldwatch think tank

WHEN Worldwatch Institute released a study on soil erosion last autumn, it made headlines around the world in scores of major newspapers that had already reported on the same study eight months earlier when it appeared as a chapter in the research orga-

nisation's book, State of the World 1984.

Worldwatch's success is remarkable in a city in which scores of older, larger and better financed think tanks, including some, such as the conservative Heritage Foundation, with sharply opposing viewpoints, compete in ideas and clamour for press and public attention.

Identifying emerging threats to human well-being and bringing them to public attention is Worldwatch's mission. The independent, non-profit group sees its role as feeding back warnings of danger ahead, and it sees dangers lurking even behind seeming successes. For instance, where some analysts cite US crop surpluses as a sign of a healthy agriculture, Worldwatch warns that they are partly the product of careless overploughing that is eroding the soil and undermining the long-term productivity of the land.

"When it began in early 1975, the institute was something of an experiment, an effort to see whether a small team of analysts with a global orientation and representing no particular discipline could provide crisp, useful analyses of the important issues confronting leaders everywhere."

Worldwatch president Lester R. Brown has written 60-odd research reports, a dozen books and tens of thousands of press clippings later, the experiment has clearly worked.

### LETTER

## Backlash blunder

Sir — To suggest, as Mr Malik did (Third World News July 12), that the landslide election victory of Rajiv Gandhi last year was due to a Hindu backlash which followed Mrs Gandhi's assassination, is the height of perverseness.

In fact, a large proportion of Muslims and other minorities voted in favour of the Congress Party. The opinion poll published in the Indian press before the election showed that 63 per cent of Muslims would vote for the ruling party, and this was borne out by the large number of Muslim-dominated constituencies returning Congress candidates.

The anti-Sikh spasm perpetrated by some over-zealous congress workers has no doubt had some effect on the voting intentions of some electorates in the north. But in other states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc., the overwhelming success of the Congress Party cannot possibly be attributed to a Hindu backlash alone.

The over-riding factor which contributed to the success of the Congress party was the issue of the unity of India.

Randhir S. Raina, Gants Hill, Essex.

### NORTH/SOUTH

## Hammered but not broken

THE state of emergency in South Africa will make it harder than it has been to predict what is really going on there. The fleeting images of violence in the townships have become the everyday fare of television, but The Hammer, a 40 minute documentary made by International Defence and Aid brings this civil war into a different, and clear, focus. GS to hire, £20 for a cassette from IDAF 64 Essex Road, London N1L.

This film shows outsiders for the first time the real face of opposition to the United Democratic Front in action. The real opposition leaders of South Africa jump out of this film. These leaders are blacks and Indians with a rare white — like South Africa's population. One after another they have the same message —



Zindzi Mandela South Africa belongs to us, its citizens. As the Rev. Allan Boesak puts it: "We want all our rights and we want them here and we want them now." Nelson Mandela's rejection of conditional release, read by his daughter Zindzi to a vast crowd in Soweto, is the climax of the film. "I cannot and will not give any undertaking at a time when I and you, the people, are not free. Your freedom and mine cannot be separated."

### Early days of Moses

THE tribulations of the 15,000 Ethiopian Jews now living in Israel continue with the row over their religious status and need for ritual reconversion. An even bigger row is likely to be hushed up over a new book revealing for the first time just how some of them got to Israel.

In early 1980 a white man claiming to be an aid official approached Sudanese officials working for refugees. He was carrying in his briefcase 400 Kenyan work contracts and a letter from a high-ranking official in Kenya confirming that the men would be employed by a Kenyan company near Nairobi.

When Operation Moses hit the headlines earlier this year Dr Tudor Parfitt of London University was already deep in research on lesser-known Jewish communities around the world. His new book, Operation Moses: the Untold Story (Weidenfeld and Nicolson £2.95), is a

sympathetic account of what he sees as a heroic tale.

Dr Parfitt's years of working in Israel gave him access to the Mossad chief he nicknames "Joshua," who was running the operation in Khartoum. He has pieced together an astonishing story of US, Israeli and Kenyan complicity in an operation which Masada agents (some of them Falashas trained in Israel) travelled deep into Ethiopia to bring the Falashas out.

The penetration of the Sudanese government meant they could arrange the sucking and victimisation of numerous honest Sudanese officials (including the dedicated Commissioner for Refugees, Ahmed Abdul Rahman) who asked questions.

According to Parfitt the "Kenyan route" dried up after the fall from power of the former Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Charles Njonjo.

Victoria Brittain, Third World Review editor

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Friday July 26 1985

Hugh Hebert reviews Arena and Pinter play

All that Shiraz

The Royal Ballet

Hancock in Houslow

...not half



Michael Billington previews the RSC festival

# Stars change course

ENGLISH critics in the off-season, write George Jan Nathan, confess touching little essays on the Sussex larks in Surrey, the excellence of the French wines they found on their holiday trip to Paris and the beautiful barmaid they ran across in Cheltenham.

That was in 1940. But today there is no off-season. London theatre is a 52-week-a-year business with the summer months thanks to the tourist invasion the busiest time of all. And not on the heels of the London International Festival of Theatre comes a two-week summer festival at the Almeida.

Put together by members of the company (with Ian McDiarmid very much the driving force), it offers a kaleidoscope of performances, workshops, staged readings with familiar figures in unfamiliar roles: Kenneth Branagh as writer, Josette Simon, Frances Barber, Peter Postlethwaite as director. First seen in Newcastle, the season is supported by the management; but it is very much a tribute to the creative energy of the current Barbican troupe and an example of theatrical workers' control.

On paper, one of the most interesting segments is the London premiere of five plays to be performed with verve. These include: *Trilogy of Reunions* by Botho Straumann. Widely performed in West Germany, unknown in Britain except for the ebullient, racy *Great* by Glenda Jackson; this play, dating from 1978, is partly an attack on modern Germany "in which the ability of people to enjoy and to suffer appears to have shrivelled more and more."

Other premieres will be Arthur Miller's 1982 double-bill, *Two-Way Mirror* (two complementary plays which question the nature of the real) and Milan Kundera's *Jarques and His Master*, translated by Simon Callow. Pavel Kohout's *The Maple Tree* (Gamer, Jonathan, Gema's Doom, Doom, Doom, Doom). It's an admirably international list, one wonders if the RSC directorate will be scouting for additions to their own English-focused repertoire.

The full-scale performances also yield some obvious attractions. David Rudkin in a major written from we rarely see on the British stage has a new play about Shakespeare, *Will's Way*. Barnes's *People* (Peter Barnes monologues first heard on Radio 3) forms a double-bill with Robin Hooper's *Asaph's Me* in which Anthony Sher plays Coteau, Edward Bond (Derek and After The Assassination) and Sebastian Shaw (The Glass Maze and Take a Life) have their own double-bills. And Kenneth Branagh proves he is not just a kindly face with Telli. He honestly writes he has written and directed.

In addition, there will be workshops (Stage Fighting, Hamlet, Directing New Plays) and two Sunday afternoon debates. One is on Theatre and the Bomb; perhaps it will ask why the theatre has yet to produce an unequivocally first-rate play on this most urgent of all subjects. The other is called *Whose Theatre?* and will investigate where the power should lie.

This festival itself suggests it lies in no one area and that any attempt to establish the hegemony of the actor, writer or director is misplaced. But it also indicates there is a lot of untapped energy bubbling away beyond the reach of the RSC production line; and that actors and stage-management are perfectly capable of getting their own, as well as the company's, show on the road.

Not the RSC is at the Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, W1, from July 30 to August 11.

# Java ready to erupt

Richard Alston talks to Alastair Macaulay about his new work for Ballet Rambert

"I REALLY resent the kind of ballet that thrills the audience and bores the dancers," Richard Alston, resident choreographer of Ballet Rambert, is talking of a dance company's expected quota of "entertaining" works — and of his own work *Java*. This, which receives its premiere tonight, is to songs by the thirties and forties harmony group The Inkspots. "Java" could be seen to fit into the populist mode. But it's not just a romp.

He talks here with the precision of restrained ballet. Unlike most of Britain's traditional ballet companies, depends not on established classics and old chestnuts but on novelty, on a constant stream of new works. This is his third new work for the company this year.

*Java* is only partly new. In 1982 Alston made *Java Jive* for the slightly smaller dance company, Second Stride. Six women in male attire danced — oh so deadpan. "There were five Inkspots songs used in that. There are nine in this."

"When I first planned it for Rambert, I thought of using only a male cast, as a counterpoint to the women in the Second Stride version. But the women in the company were crying out to be in something new. So now it uses five men, seven women. And I'm very pleased with how they make it look. It's quite different now."

Alston is remarkable in the amount of attention and study he gives to works of other choreographers. He has written and spoken of the reasons for which he admires the work of Merce Cunningham and Frederick Ashton, and will converse at length about a wide range of choreographers ancient and modern. Talking during the 1983 London season of New York City Ballet, I discovered that the previous night's performance of Balanchine's *Symphony in Three Movements* had kept him awake with excitement until dawn.

And this observation and admiration feed his choreography. In the old *Java Jive* — in-joke, confident, tongue-in-cheek — an in-joke for aficionados was to play "Spot the quotation." Several steps were specific references to works by Fokine, Ashton, Balanchine, Tudor, as well as to his own. Has he kept this up in the new *Java*? "Yes, and some of the new quotations are naughtier."

"But *Java* has more variety now, it's more elaborate. It's more dense in organisation and more virtuosic. The group dances are quite complex — on purpose. To interest myself as a choreographer, and so that they're quite tricky and demanding for the dancers."

Frederick Ashton has said that he likes to make each new ballet completely different from the last, by that means keeping himself fresh. Does Alston try for this?

His first two works for the Rambert this year have been the short narrative *Mythologies* to a score by Nigel Osborne and the tense, brilliant, plotless *Dangerous Liaisons* (which had its successful London premiere on Monday) to taped electronic music by Simon Waters. Now

with *Java* it's the vignettes of wit and sentiment to The Inkspots.

"I begin with the music. That dictates the style. Yes, I generally like to go to a quite different piece of music each time. That's my starting-point. I absorb myself in the music."

The pieces are about the people who are in them. That's my second starting-point. I try to bring out what I like about them — what I admire in them, and what's peculiar to them. I don't work so well with dancers I don't know. I like to see what dancers need in the context of their repertory. With *Voices* and *Light Footsteps* last year there were even situations within the company that I used, though not necessarily on the same people.

"Some companies just naturally belong to the British acting tradition. The dancers at Rambert and Second Stride, like the Royal, are instinctive actors. At London Contemporary Dance Theatre, they're not. Their instincts are to do with types of movement, and they're very skilled at them. Not that the dancers at Rambert's substitute acting for dancing. In plotless works they're marvellous at bringing out the dance values, the shape of phrases."

He has been with Rambert since 1980. Has he developed? "I've learnt a lot. I decided to stick with Rambert, rather than concentrate on work with smaller groups, in order to be able to see my work over a long series of performances. That's why I find *Dangerous Liaisons* pleasing to watch right now. It shows me how

my working relationship with these dancers has deepened. Two of the dancers in it were in Rainbow Ripples when that was new in 1980, and I can see that through teaching and experience the kind of material I'm using on them has developed. The dancers have come to understand much more and my work's become more secure."

He speaks with admiration of several of the dancers he is using in *Java*, both newcomers and experienced members of the company. "The tour of Poland has pulled them all together. They're looking very good now. And it's interesting to see what they bring out in a piece. In some passages of *Java* they really make the situations quite sad. And then, the piece has its twists. Boy meets girl only after a lot of trouble."

UNUSUAL operas are standard fare for the Opera Theatre of St Louis. Since the theatre, which performs at the University of Missouri, is in a wealthy, leafy suburb, has some of the social ethos, and atmosphere of the theatre of the past.

But Opera Theatre has no competition from a traditional grand opera company elsewhere in town, and its audience is well-trained and receptive.

Yet even for a public reared on a bizarre repertoire, Opera Theatre's tenth anniversary season was an extraordinary selection. The only popular work was *The Barber of Seville*, in a lively, almost too colloquial, translation: the Count brought the house down in the last scene when he pulled a gun on Basilio, to make him witness the marriage, and added in the words of Clint Eastwood, "Go on. Make my day."

Then there was *Idomeneo* in Andrew Porter's fine new translation, as the regular Mozart spot. And instead of one new opera, there were two. The Woodlanders by Stephen Paulus and Minora Miki's *Jouru*. Each had libretti by Colin Graham, who is now making his home in St Louis, not only to be Opera Theatre's artistic director, but to study theology with an evangelical Christian guru so that he can become a preacher.

Nobody would claim that either Paulus or Miki is a great composer. But they are willing and able to write lively stage works with music of lyrical potential in an accessible idiom. Paulus's *Woodlanders*, unfortunately, had nothing much to offer apart from its mild idiom, Britain without the tunes, and



Tom Sutcliffe finds the Opera Theatre of St Louis full of surprises

# Tom Sutcliffe finds the Opera Theatre of St Louis full of surprises

# Rossini with magnificence

its tale flatly told. It was almost bereft of any original musical ideas, and so was dreadfully dispiriting to listen to.

Even its occasional forays towards folk numbers were not answered confidently with material that could suit the context, but perhaps Paulus doesn't know the English folk material of Hardy's time any more than he knows the Wessex landscape or in particular the New Forest, where the story has its origins. What he had was a futile exercise in generalised narrative music.

The most promising singing came from Cory Miller as Marty South. Mark Thomson

as Fitzpiers the Doctor, and James McGuire as Giles Winterbourne. Colin Graham's staging tried to provide some of the authentic English country feeling that the score lacked, but without hope of saving the day. Richard Buckley conducted energetically, competently, but you can't put character into anonymous music.

Miki's idiom may not be very adventurous either; and like other Japanese musicians who have gone partly western, he sometimes makes one feel that he's only just woken up to the joys of diatonic harmony. But *Jouru* is never in danger of seeming humdrum or falling in its taut

seem an extension of the Japanese musicians rather than leaving the Japanese music as merely exotic.

The Barber of Seville staged by Sarah Ventura was like every Barber you have ever seen, with sunny Spanish walls and Beaumarchais period costumes. The problem was that the singing, though promising enough, never quite became distinguished.

Mark Du Bois, the young Canadian Almativa, has a clean and pleasing light tenor and gurgled away through all the highly decorative passages with much skill. But at the final performance of the season, conducted not by Leonard Slatkin but Joseph Rescigno, he ran out of tone some way short of the end. Robert Orr's Figaro was all too willing, almost smug in his confidence and nonchalance, but sang in a throaty style that suggested vocal troubles in the future.

A lack of the right kind of stylish musical preparation also affected *Idomeneo*, where, as often in America, the female singers are afflicted with far too much sense of decorum, so that they strive — to seem sweet — and wholesome and that well turned out, like all good all-American girls, instead of finding the heroic energy and attack that are really required. The conductor, John Nelson, didn't seem to have much idea about what's special in this Mozart opera, in his mediocre approach.

Michael Myers as Idomeneo was simply too young and inexperienced for a very demanding role. The most promising voice was Hans Gregory Ashbaker's as the High Priest of Neptune.



Karl Johnson in The Mysteries. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

# BRIEFING

## THEATRE

MORE foreign theatre from LIFT at sundry venues. Spain's Els Comediantes offer *The Devils in Battersea Park* (free) on Sunday and *Ale in "comic" fare* at Sadler's Wells from Tuesday. Poland's Teatr Nowy also bring us *The End of Europe* at the Lyric Hammersmith from Wednesday. Another festival, the RSC, also gets under way at the Almeida on Tuesday. Elsewhere Alan Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval*, featuring Michael Caine and Gemma Craven, opens at the Olivier; Vanessa Redgrave and Jonathan Pryce star in a re-cast version of Charles Sturridge's production of *The Sign of the Cross*; Donald Sinden heads the Chichester production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* directed by Nicholas Hytner and adapted by Beverley Cross. *The Devil Rides Out* — A Bit, horror-spoof directed by Jude Kelly, bows at the Lyric Studio; South's *King Lear* is at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park.

## Recommended

*The Mysteries* (Lyric): Last week of Bill Bryden's epoch-making production. Kern Gess Te. Hollywood (Donmar Warehouse): Inmaculate tribute to Jerome.

Michael Billington

## OPERA

Tesco (Covent Garden, Sunday) the last Handelian novelty of this anniversary year, promoted under the auspices of Line Lalandi's English Bach Festival and given "in the baroque style," which means that the singers sport feathered head-dresses, silken cloaks and embryonic armour. Jess-Claude Malgoire conducts. Tom Hawkes produces, designs are by Terence Emery and the cast includes Elizabeth Vaughan, Marilyn Hill Smith, Penelope Walker and Robin Martin Oliver.

*Idomeneo* (Glyndebourne tomorrow, Monday, Thursday, tomorrow week) Elizabeth Connell joins the cast as Electra. In the competent revival of the Trevor Nunn Japanese staging, Philip Langridge is impressive in

## DANCE

WAYNE Eagling's first work for The Royal Ballet has its premiere tonight and then shows twice tomorrow and next Tuesday, sharing a bill with *Birthday Offering* and *Enigma Variations*. Now called *Frankenstein*, the Modern Prometheus, it is set to a commissioned score by Vangelis with costumes by the Emmanuelle.

Jennifer Jackson's new ballet *Half The House* is being given again next Monday, Wednesday and Thursday on a triple bill with *La Bayadere* and either *Enigma Variations* (Monday) or *Birthday Offering*. Industrial action has prevented the return of Varril Capricci to the repertory.

MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* should return next Friday when an additional matinee brings the number of *Romeos* to end the season to four instead of three. Check castings and programmes on 01-240 9815.

Ballet Rambert in the Big Top in Battersea Park has a programme change tonight (until Tuesday) and will give Pierrot, Laureate, Robert North's *Light and Shade* and Alston's *Java*. Next Wednesday brings the final programme in the Big Top: *Voices* and *Light Footsteps*, Sergeant Earl's *Dreams* and *Entre dos Aguas*.

London Festival Ballet finish at the Coliseum tonight and tomorrow with three *Romeo* and *Juliet* and open at Royal Festival Hall on Monday for a week of Coppelia. There will be attendant jollities on the South Bank (until August 17) in collaboration with the GLC.

## ROCK

THE ALFRESCO season continues this weekend with two hardy annuals. Highlighting

## THEATRE

the title role. Simon Rattle conducts. Last chance. La Basse Piste (Buxton, tomorrow, Wednesday, next Friday). John Dexter's staging of the Goldoni adaptation of Samuel Richardson's hit novel, *Pamela*, Music, conducted by Anthony Hoad, by Piccanti. Also coming into the Festival rep: *Il Filosofo di Campagna* by Galuppi, staged by Malcolm Fraser, another Goldoni opera (Buxton Thursday, tomorrow week). Casts include Mark Holland, Rita Cullis, Gordon Sandison.

Tom Sutcliffe

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continues this weekend with two hardy annuals. Highlighting

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BY PETER BARNES

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**Christopher Driver introduces the five finalists, Colin Spencer reports on their professionalism at the stove, and Aileen Hall reviews a tricky balancing act with some distinctive wines**

# The art of cordon vert

advertising agency. David Sowler is a pensions consultant who renovates old houses for his own use; and Dominique Plummanns, originally from Alsace, is an Avon County Council welfare rights officer whose other interests include "social tripping" countryside, fell walking and doing things with my hands."

And just as Dominique paid tribute to her mother's "genial skill in cooking" and curiosity about food, David has been cooking from the age of five "because my mother was a keen *Girl Guide* captain and believed in bringing up children to be self-sufficient."

Many will wish to know that the typical ingredient cost of these five course meals (cooked from scratch for four people) was £22 exclusive of wines. The competitive prices for prime produce and super-ingredients pushed the price up on this occasion; even so, the series of competitors' recipes which we start publishing this week should not all exhaust the purse and not patience of Dietsch and Cleeck-De and other familiar *Guardian* letter-writers.

## A big wine needs rich, highly flavoured food

both the tangy cheeses and the stuffed peaches. Dominique chose Sainsbury's Alsace Gewurztraminer 1983, perhaps misled by its fruity fragrance into thinking it slightly sweet. It is, in fact, bone dry, and while it matched its native Munster cheese to perfection, it failed to cope with the sorbet. Miranda's pretty pink champagne too (also from Sains-

buty's) was not sweet enough for fruit tarts. Jill's demi-securvour, Chateau Monconfort 1853, from Oodhvin, went splendidly well with raspberries, but was not quite up to the exquisite fruit tarts. A sweeter version of the same wine would have done a better job in both these cases.

The most successful match by far was Catherine's Barac-Dolme Daene 1978 (in half a bottle from Adam's). (It was no surprise to find its honey-eyed sweetness echoing the flavours in her raspberries.) It was a bit of a honey, but it was also old wondrous things for the fine two-year-old Gouda cheese produced, finding latent caramel flavours in the cheese which made several tasters comment that it was like Norwegian Gjelost.

None of us could have predicted it — but in food and drink there is always something new.

AILEEN HALL

*Caroline Stoy (left) preparing the finishing touches for the dish that was voted everyone's favourite of the evening:*

● Spinach and lemon mousselines with avocado

**7 oz spinach**  
**7 fl oz double cream**  
**two size 1 eggs**  
**1½ tablespoons lemon juice**  
**a large avocado**  
**salt and freshly ground black pepper.**

**Dressing:**  
**1 tablespoon lemon juice**  
**1 teaspoon honey**  
**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**seasoning as above.**

Trim the stalks from the spinach. You should end up with about 5 oz. Wash it well, then cook with water in a covered pan until tender. Drain it well and cool. Whisk cold liquidise with the lemon juice until smooth. Add 1½ eggs and liquidise briefly again. Add the cream a little at a time, with a little seasoning and blend in. Pour into four greased ramekins and cover with circles of greased foil. Bake in a water bath at gas 5 for 40 minutes.

Meanwhile peel and slice the avocado thinly. Generously warm the dressing. When the mousselines are cooked, loosen the sides with a sharp knife and turn out on to warmed plates. Garnish with the avocado slices and spoon a little dressing on to each portion.

[illegible]

**JILL ROBINSON**, the winner, spooning out wheatberry salad

### THE PRIZE-WINNING MENU

*Courgette and leek timbales with tomato and basil sauce*  
*Ribbon cake (a four-layered parsley omelette filled with three sauces: mushroom and red wine; spinach and blue cheese; aubergine, shallot and tomato; topped with brown breadcrumbs and grated parmesan and re-heated)*  
*Noodles and vegetables (french beans, mangetout peas, fennel and new carrots) with a walnut and tahini sauce*

*Wheatberry salad*  
*Caerphilly, Chewton Mendip Cheddar, Shropshire Blue*  
*Red fruit tarts*  
*Gazela Vinho Verde; Dao Grao Vasco 1980; Vouvray Ch.*  
*Moncontour 1983 (demi-sec)*

**It was a revelation to the professionals that vegetarian cooking could be so light and look so appealing.**

ON THE NIGHT, not one  
dinner hurried or was burnt,  
not a drop of oil spilt, nothing  
broke (except a few eggs) all  
panic seemed to be banished.  
As the meals gradually  
shifted, the staff discerned the  
commitment of the staff at  
length. "I'm taken by storm,"  
said one young tutor: it was  
a revelation to them that vegeta-  
rianism was not a fad, but a  
light and look so appealing.

Each contestant crooked one  
or more outstanding dishes.  
We all knew choosing  
wisely. The first was a  
wonderful Caroline Staff's spinach  
and lemon mousseline, with  
avocado was admired by all  
the judges and voted the top  
dish of the evening. The Pr  
Lent and I admired Jill  
Robinson's courgette  
leek timbale with fresh  
tomato and basil sauce  
and used the tomato  
coulis was refreshing) but  
Christopher Devereaux found  
the sauce too sharp and preferred  
Miranda Kennep's and made a

pepper and pear compote with paw paw, kumquats and pickled ginger which tasted sublime but looked like mad. Miranda's first course suffered from the same flaw: a dour combination of ogen melon in request sauce, but at least on jukefruit disliked it. I thought I was well. You can't win them all, oh Dominique. Pluanna's main courses were the bravest for contrast and flavour: field marrows with a sabayon sauce, and three green beans spiced with cummin and asafoetida. Would we ever agree on anything?

Pluanna's spinach roulade because of its crunch, red onion and ricotta filling. It looked the impressive of the main course. Caroline had done home made pasta which melted on the tongue and had served it with mango-butter and butternut ginger sauce, a remarkable success. I thought, but her salad

of palm hearts and artichokes  
blossoms looked better than it  
tasted.

Judd's ribbon cake resembled  
an egg-bath, the parsley  
crescettes with three different  
fillings, mushroom, spinach  
and subergine. After assembly  
it had to be heated again  
in the oven. I thought that  
the filling would go rubbery  
or soggy. They did neither,  
and it tasted superb, though  
aesthetically not quite Royal  
Enclosure. Her mother  
commented that an excellent  
foil to her other dishes, crun-  
chy and refreshing.

At the pudding stage Domi-  
nique's mango sorbet was  
consumed with huge delight  
by everyone. It seemed that  
the mango essence, mango  
transformed into a thick  
smooth cream. Caroline had  
done Prue Leith's favourite  
pudd, soft fruit with milk  
cream and brown sugar  
(such simple tastes we cook-  
ery writers have), David  
Soutter had stuffed peaches

with nibbles they came out of the little battered but tasted gorgeous. Jill's pudding of red fruit tartlets with frosted berries we considered worthy of Mossman himself.

Marks out of ten were given for each course. Then for how apt the matching of wines was, and again for the overall concept of the meal. The judges went into a huddle with Frue in the chair, bringing us breath to order when we all shouted at once for our champions. Eventually by a short head we agreed that Jill Robinson was the winner, bringing us breath to the runner-up, with Dominique Pinnaux third.

It was also agreed that vegetarian food so entrancing could not have been created ten years ago. This was true for us, and we thought we might now give the beef Wellington a miss.

**COLIN SPENCER**

COLIN SPENCER

## Honest bottle

**SEMILLON SEC** is a Bordeaux-bottled a/c white wine. The Semillon grape is usually used, after it has started to develop its "noble rot" in the sweet white styles of Sauternes. But here it is a fine example of the growing attention in Bordeaux to dry white wines. It is not often one can speak of distinction in a wine of this price. This, though, with its delicately floral notes and its elegant, if quite unexpectedly elegant, fruit without being heavy, it is a summer wine to drink in the garden in the evening. It should be lightly chilled but no more: icing destroys its balance and freshness.

Outstanding value from **Berry Bros. & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1A 1EG, at £2.70 the 75cl. bottle.**

**John Arlott**

**John Arlott**

**Christopher Driver**  
is editor of  
**Food and Drink**

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# GOOD FOOD GUIDE

# Gone fishin'

**THERE** is currently a campaign to get you to know your fishmonger. This seems a very dangerous idea. To this you would be talking to this perfectly nice chap, and, all of a sudden, the conversation drifts on to double glazed pavlows, recycled fish and how the frozen eel steaks are much easier; you just might be moved to throw much of the head of one of his own salmon. But Bob Kent, the Sea Fish Industry Authority, is the man behind the sociable idea. He says, "There are many people in this country, in particular young housewives, who grew up in the 50s in the boom of the convenience food era who never, ever buy fresh fish."

In his report, FSN's executive officer, David Walker, said the trading standards officer for Shropshire County Council, points out that there is no protection for the trader selling fresh as opposed to old fish. The price goes down as the quality deteriorates, so there is nothing to stop old fish selling for half the price of fresh. According to this theory, we buy the cheapest, hence the oldest, and hence the most likely to be rotting in the market. That's not better again!

That may sound flip, but remember a group of 35 people who had each put their life's savings into a fish and chip shop and gone to Grimsby for two days to learn how to run it, on a course run by the Fryer's federation. One of the 35 had bought back as one of the different grades of fish. The official federation view now is that fish frozen at sea is likely to be better than the fresh usually available at the markets, because it hasn't deteriorated less in the handling than it is in the marketing. It is an indictment of the supply network as is imaginable, however many fish improve with a couple of days of keeping — certainly sole and

Carl Timms, who cooks fish dishes at Sloan's in Birmingham, believes in hanging his salmon for a week, like meat. Finhermen on long trips drag the skate by the nose to the tender in the wake.

To tell fresh fish, I favor the fresh green whiting, a slimy fish that makes it virtually impossible to hold in your hands. This slime slowly disappears over the days. Run your hand over the outside of the fish and see how slippery it is — the thicker the slime of lime, the fresher the fish.

Salmon in Scotch have very slimy fish, so does the merluccius, chant down the back of Atlantic terrace garage, and Joe Mist is all right, and Steve Matt has

There is no doubt that the only fish and chip shops that are consistently recommended to the Good Food Guide are the ones that serve fresh fish. When Harry Ramsden's started using frozen fish some of the time, the recommendations fell off. Bryan in Leeds took over as the number one place. It is no big secret why the Sealshell is the most famous fish and chip shop in London. It is because the fish is fresh. We tend to forget what fresh fish does taste like until it makes itself obvious.

Meanwhile, restaurant inspectors are making a few more cookery advances up the Pacific coast westward.

In London: at Kiku, a Japanese restaurant, filets of salmon are encased in salt and drawn out the juices before being flared, grilling and garnishing.

At the California restaurant of repute, sea bass (or green mullet) is steamed and served with spring onions or a black bean sauce; at Mableton, the fish is steamed and served interwoven into a block and served with a puree of watercress; at the Bayleaf restaurant, the latest Indian craze, the fish is cooked cooperatively, the fish is steamed, the head, pomfret, green mullet, at Cafe Rouge, the fish is steamed and the scallops still in their shells but with a shredding of vegetables are sealed up with

Elsewhere:  
At Cromlix House in Dun  
lane, the dazzling sculpture  
smoked fish including sea  
lops and halibut is extraor  
dinary; and at the Manor at  
Quat' Saisons, Raymon  
Blanc's new trademark the  
tartan of wild salmon with  
cucumber is just . . . well,

the pink.  
Sloans. 27-29 Chad Square  
Hawthorne Road, Edgware  
Birmingham. Tel Birmingham  
021-922-1111.  
Bryan's 9 Wierwood Lane  
Headingley, Leeds. Tel Leeds  
(0532) 783 679.  
Seashell 33-35 Lisson Grove  
London SW1. Tel 01-724 1063.  
The White Horse Saloon  
London W1. Tel 01-499 4020.  
Mableaux. 61 The St.  
London SE1. Tel 01-928 8645.  
Bayfield Taxoloum, 2 New  
St. Highgate, London NG  
01-862 215.  
Cafe Rouge, 2c Cherry Tree  
Walk, Whitecross Street  
London EC1. Tel 01-538 0710.  
Crombie House, Dumbarton  
Perthshire FK15 8RT. Tel Dum  
fries (0786) 822 125.  
Le Manoir aux Quatre  
Saisons, Church Road, Gros-  
Milton, Oxfordshire. Tel Gros

All correspondence about these articles should be addressed to The Editor, The Green

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## OXFORD UNIVERSITY CLASS LISTS

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## John Arlott

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## Christopher Driver is editor of Food and Drink



Friday July 26 1985  
Hugh Heston  
reviews Arena and  
Pinter play  
All that  
Shiraz  
The Royal  
Ballet  
TONIGHT  
Hancock in  
Hounslow  
not half

# FRIDAY AGENDA

## Five years that show there is an alternative

DAVID OWEN, SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, WILLIAM RODGERS

EXACTLY five years ago, in an Open Letter to the Guardian, we urged fellow members of the Labour Party to rally and fight in an attempt to save it from sliding to further electoral defeat. We warned that if Labour failed the nation, a reform might arise to save Britain from cruel and divisive Tory policies.

Those most in a position to halt and reverse Labour's self-destructive drive did not heed our warning. Within six months of our Guardian letter, we joined with Roy Jenkins to issue the Limehouse Declaration, establish the Council for Social Democracy, and launch the Social Democratic Party.

The instant success of our new party surprised us all. It was as if a coiled spring had at last been released. A new political group had found a voice. A recent membership survey shows that 65 per cent of SDP members had never previously committed themselves to any political party. Of the rest, 22 per cent came from Labour and 8 per cent from the Conservatives. Furthermore, these members now take a very active part in politics. Each of them is the selection of candidates, on amendment to the party's constitution, on the election of the party's leader. And each vote is of equal value; no one can cast a vote other than his or her own. The SDP is a party that belongs to its members. We practise today what we preached five years ago.

The partnership between the SDP and the Liberal Party is also a new concept in British politics. The fact that two parties can work together and together prepare a programme for government is a welcome relief to the bitter wrangling both between and within the two old class-based parties. It is now clear that the emergence of the SDP/Liberal Alliance has transformed politics in Britain.

In our 1980 Open Letter, we said that the inflexible monetarist doctrines of Mrs Thatcher's Government were "driving unemployment to intolerable levels and laying waste large areas of the economy. Five years later the British economy is in even worse plight than we then foresaw, with the loss of a quarter of its manufacturing base, the first ever recorded deficit on trade in manufactured goods, and more than one in eight of our fellow-citizens unemployed at a time of severe and worsening skill shortages.

Economically, the Government has presided over a disaster, and this despite peak revenues from North Sea oil. Yet the response of the Labour Opposition has been so weak, and its policies so incoherent and unconvincing, that the Conservative Government increased its parliamentary strength in 1983, while Labour's share of the poll fell even further. The 1983 result was the worst for the Labour Party for 60 years. The newly formed Alliance gained only 2.2 per cent less of the popular vote than Labour.

Two years after the general election, with the successful by-elections at Portsmouth South and Brecon and Radnor behind us, a slight presence throughout local government, no-one can deny that there will be a three-horse race at the next election. Despite some improvement in Labour's position in the public opinion polls, it is the Alliance that offers the serious challenge to Mrs Thatcher's misguided policies, and proposes a sustained attack on the mounting economic and social problems of our country.

For Labour is still beset by its old weaknesses. The

undemocratic role of the activists within the Labour Party that we diagnosed as its fatal flaw five years ago remains. It is fashionable to argue, particularly amongst those who failed to fight when we challenged them to do so, that all is now changed. But that is to ignore the dramatic shift in the centre of gravity of the Labour Party. The challenge over re-selection has been resolved not so much by dismissal as by early retirement.

The true way to establish where Labour stands in the political spectrum is to examine its policies. In most respects our analysis of five years ago hardly needs amendment. We wrote then of Labour's ambivalence on the mixed economy, its half-hearted approach to internationalism, and its shallow commitment to representative democracy. We see no signs of any change of heart.

In our Open Letter we called on the Labour Party to remain firmly committed to parliamentary democracy, "defending the class we accept the mixed economy and the need to manage it efficiently, and attaching importance to the ideals of freedom, equality, and social justice." Five years on, the Labour Party's commitment to these principles remains at best uncertain, at worst divided. Where is the commitment to parliamentary democracy when an MP can be forced out of office or elected councillors be instructed how to vote by a tiny caucus of political activists? Why has the Labour Party set its face against one member, one vote for selecting candidates and adopting policy? Above all, how can the Labour leadership accept without objection the flagrant disregard of ordinary trade unionists' rights in the new NUM rules which give Mr Gargill and his executive virtually absolute power?

Both the rejection of class war and the efficient functioning of our economy are essential to Britain's industrial and technological future. Our competitors, in Japan, the United States and other advanced nations, are creating new forms of industrial relationships which embody the idea of partnership and accept new technology. While our competitors advance, we fight expensive and destructive battles, like the year-long miners' strike. In the poorest parts of Great Britain, confrontation between extremist Labour local councils and the Conservative Government has become a way of life; nothing is less likely to attract new businesses and new jobs.

The SDP opposes privatisation when embarked upon by Mrs Thatcher for doctrinaire reasons and in order to bolster the Treasury with massive profits from the sale of public assets. But we are far from satisfied with the performance of the public sector and believe that the question of ownership should be decided on merit with a minimum of necessary changes. Governments should enable industry to compete effectively without constant interference. A genuine partnership between government and industry and within industry itself will give stability and a sense of direction.

But Labour remains the party of central economic planning and control, committed to rationing, rationing, rationing, unable to escape from the shadow of Clause IV of its constitution. It is obsessed by the flight of capital abroad and the might of the multi-nationals. It distrusts the role of profits as the basis for investment.

Even the genuine desire to do something about unemployment is undermined by Labour's ambiguity about an in-

comes policy. Without some kind of restraint, reduction of the economy could simply increase the incomes of those already in work rather than creating additional jobs. Yet powerful trade union leaders have indicated their opposition to any form of incomes policy, and they would exercise an effective veto over a future Labour government's actions.

A mixed economy in which the public and the private sector each does what it does best, is essential to Britain's economic recovery. Social Democrats will fight for the National Health Service as a public service. We want to see a flexible, modern, combined education and training system, whose credits are granted and recognised for all kinds of academic and vocational achievements. Such a system is blocked both by Government intransigence and by trade union objections to training based on standards rather than on time served. We have said loud and clear that these services must be strengthened and expanded, even if that means that cuts in the standard rate of tax are not possible at the present time.

There are regions in Britain that have been so badly hit by the recession that public investment is essential to establish a basis for recovery. Private investment, as the failure of the Government's Inner City Enterprise project in Merseyside showed, will not go to depressed and blighted areas until the local environment has been improved.

What about the principles of "equality and social justice" to which we referred in our 1980 Open Letter. The test of equality and social justice is what is done for the new "underclass" in our society, who are truly underprivileged and poor. Defending the existing system does little for them. Cutting the benefits they do get, as the Social Security Review implies, will make them even more wretched. Complicated tax and social security systems as the SDP suggests to ensure an adequate level of basic benefit for all those in need, cannot be a reasonable income constitution. Such more radical commitment to social justice than the Labour position. Freedom, like social justice, is by no means secure in Britain today. The excessive and arbitrary powers of the police, the willingness of Labour councils to break the law are examples of threats to freedom.

The politicisation of the Civil Service and of public appointments throughout society, the ready use of outdated laws against those who divulge official information, Government secrecy and refusal to consult or inform Parliament and the public on matters that affect them — these are all evidence of a policy of repression at the highest levels of Government. The freedom of the individual now urgently needs to be underpinned by law. Yet Alliance initiatives, such as the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, and to press for freedom of information legislation, receive no encouragement from the official leadership of either the Labour or Conservative parties.

The European Court has now become the foremost guardian of British liberties, insisting on data protection, control on our telephone tapping, decent standards for prisoners and the mentally ill, and much more. In the economic and technological sphere, the European Community alone offers a market large enough to launch new products and create the new industries of the future. We cannot do it on our own. Nor can we hope to influence the international political process, whether it con-

cerns disarmament or a campaign against famine, without friends and partners. When five years ago, we wrote about internationalism and referred to the Brandt report and to the European Community, it was becoming clear even then that hostile attitudes to aid in Washington and London were likely to add to misery and hardship in the developing world. Debt repayments since then have risen to the point where they are swamping sensible and necessary development in many Third World countries. In Africa, famine has added death to despair and debilitation. The SDP remains wholly committed to Britain achieving the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for development aid within the lifetime of a Parliament and to trading policies consistent with world-wide economic growth.

We would use Britain's international financial influence to ease the problems of adjustment for developing countries and to help resolve the debt problem. An Alliance government would carry influence abroad for, unlike Labour, we accept the need to work within an international framework to resist



Still holding the middle ground (from top) David Owen—picture by Denis Thorpe; Shirley Williams—picture by Don McPhee; William Rodgers—picture by Garry Weiser

protectionism and to co-operate with other nations. The Labour Party undoubtedly shares our concern about the developing world but its internal and external economic policies and the pursuit of a siege economy, bolstered by selective import controls, would vitiate any good intentions.

On defence, Labour shares our belief that the Trident programme is too expensive and should be scrapped. But, hopelessly fraught as ever, Labour's pretence that Trident savings will solve all the problems of our conventional defences is matched by its other commitment to cut conventional defence spending to the average level of our European allies.

This is a certain recipe for making a nuclear response to attack more likely. Labour now endorses the SDP's advocacy of a ban on nuclear weapons-free zone, but its obsession with one-sided disarmament has left the SDP and the Alliance as the sole advocates of a dual-use missiles in this country as an additional safeguard against a decision to use them by the American President alone.

The SDP would not abandon Britain's existing nuclear weapons without reference to our allies and regard for the part they might play in the prospects for a stronger European role in Nato, or to the role they could play, when placed on the negotiating table in achieving deep cuts in US and Soviet nuclear armaments. In its opposition to President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, the SDP is not alone. It is a new and even more serious escalation of the arms race, the SDP is listened to precisely because of its staunch commitment to Nato.

The defence policy of the Labour Party has moved relentlessly from unilateralism to semi-neutrality. Not even Michael Foot at the last election urged the removal from airfields and ports in the United Kingdom of United States forces that have anything to do with Nato's nuclear deterrent strategy. Such a policy, devastating to the cohesion and strength of Nato, shows no understanding of the consequences of their defence policy for their socialist allies in Germany, Belgium, Holland and Italy who live much closer to the east-west frontier.

Five years ago, Mrs Thatcher had been Prime Minister for little more than twelve months. She warned about her policies before their full measure had been widely understood. In the intervening years she has sought to persuade the voters that there is no alternative to her policies, no other way to solve the nation's problems. When the main opposition to her came from the Labour Party, this sometimes appeared a credible claim. With the formation of the SDP and the rise of the Alliance, she now faces an altogether more formidable challenge.

None of the socialist parties in these countries has denounced Nato's strategy or sunk to the depths of inconsistency and ignorance that are Labour's hallmark.

The character of Labour's predicament is highlighted by its relationship with the trade unions. Labour depends for 80 per cent of its income on affiliation from the trade unions. Even now, the trade unions are raising a multi-million pound Election fund for the Labour Party.

We believe that it is bad for democracy and bad for Britain that any party should rely so heavily on financial backing from narrow interest groups as Labour does. As the Tories do in respect of support from business and the City. That is why the public funding of political parties makes so much sense; and why we believe that trade unions should be free to contract into the Labour Party if they wish, instead of being forced to contract out of a contribution automatically expected of them.

### POINTS OF ORDER

Picture the scene in the Commons chamber in the early hours of Wednesday morning, following the division on top people's pay. The four tellers emerge from behind the Speaker's chair and begin to sort themselves into a line in front of the mace. A vast hush falls on the chamber as the packed benches realise that it is the senior Opposition whip who is at the right of the line, indicating that the Government has lost.

The four men compose themselves, take a pace forward and bow to the Chair. Suddenly the hubbub ceases as the senior whip raises a sheet of paper and reads out the figures. The noise is resumed at an even higher decibel level when the full extent of the government's humiliation is confirmed. Mr Roy Hattersley, standing in for Neil Kinnock, leaps to the despatch box to demand a statement of intent from the Prime Minister.

Slowly, angrily, Mrs Thatcher fumbles in her handbag for a single sheet of paper and rises to her feet. By now the cries of "resign" threaten to shatter the windows. She waits for the noise to subside, then announces that Wednesday afternoon's business is to be cancelled to make way for a debate on a motion of confidence in her government coupled with an endorsement of the top salaries Order.

A pure fantasy, I fear. But it could have been reality if only Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition had been a little more loyal to its constitutional duty. Mrs Thatcher did indeed face the possibility of defeat. And I assure you, she really did have that fateful piece of paper in her handbag, just in case.

SO IT has not been a good week for either set of whips. For Mr Michael Cocks, Labour's retiring chief whip, it is an unhappy note on which to end his 12 year career. Nor is it likely to help Mr Norman Hogg, the present deputy, in his bid to succeed him. As for Mr John Wakeham, the newly married government chief whip, he may well be wishing he had taken an early honeymoon.

At least two senior ministers were complaining on Wednesday that not a single successful damage limitation exercise late on Tuesday night. Their success in concealing their real weakness from Messrs Cocks and Hogg may be overdone. But the whips are also meant to be an early warning system of approaching trouble, and in that duty they failed to get their message across.

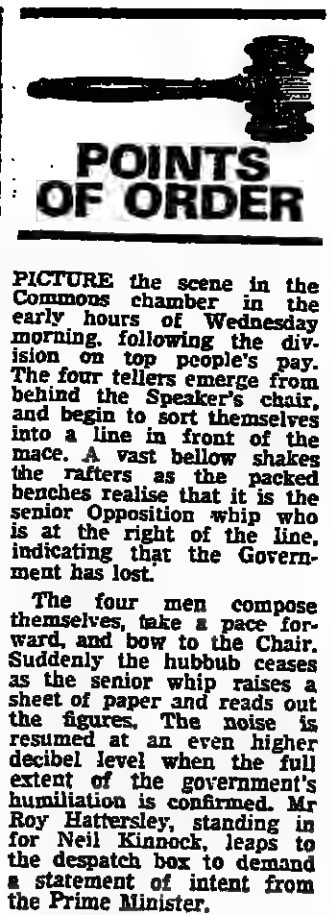
WHY DID so many Tory MPs eventually decide to rebel? The basic reason, of course, was the knowledge that their constituents would see the award as blatantly unfair. But there was also a strong feeling that all that stuff about the need to pay astronomical increases in order to maintain the quality of life was basically nonsense.

I can personally testify that at least two judges were amazed at the scale of the awards. But I have also received evidence from the opposition that not a single informant in the Ministry of Defence tells me that, though there is no shortage of generals, admirals, air marshals and top civil servants in that noble building, there is a shortage of simple clerks, typists and secretaries.

To be exact, there are 40 vacancies for secretaries in the mid-building alone, and even more for clerical officers. The gross salary for the former is £7,542, and for the latter £6,500. Their boss, Permanent Secretary, Sir Clive Whitmore, is to get an increase of £15,000 a year, or around twice as much as a secretary's total pay.

As my informant says: "To put it bluntly, there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians."

SIR William Clark, the ultra-loyalist chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, was affronted when Mr Hattersley told him in the chamber that he would cheerfully support the Government even if it was introduced a Slaughter, First-Born Bill. Tory rebel Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark was sympathetic on the terrace later. "Damn cheek," he told Sir William, "You'd only support it if it was the second-born."



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## How propping up the Bar doesn't help the public



David Pannick

TOMORROW the annual general meeting of the Bar will take place. Unlike most such meetings, it will be attended by a large number of barristers. It will concentrate on matters of great importance to the profession, and it will lead to radical changes in the way barristers present their own case to the public. However, these changes will do nothing to advance the public interest in securing effective legal services for all.

At present the Bar is led by a self-perpetuating group of very successful QCs who earn six figure salaries from commercial law. Junior barristers, who constitute the overwhelming proportion of the Bar's membership, have a limited voice in the conduct of the Bar's affairs.

This has led to deep discontent amongst less successful barristers at the limited improvements in rates of pay for legal aid work, and in methods of paying fees expeditiously. For people who make a living out of presenting other people's cases in as attractive a light as possible, barristers have a poor record in respect of their own public relations. The inability of the leadership of the Bar to hook a hall large enough for the numbers who turned up to the AGM on July 10, causing the meeting to be postponed until tomorrow, speaks volumes about the Bar Council's understanding of barristers' concerns.

Disaffection with the ruling regime has prompted a campaigning group led by Anthony Scriven QC (himself one of the most successful QCs at the Bar) to propose reforms to the status quo. This group wants the Chairman of the Bar to be elected by postal ballot amongst all barristers rather than, as at present, for the Chairman to emerge (like the Pope or like the leader of the Conservative Party after 1965) after soundings are taken. A more aggressive professional body is being demanded, one that will campaign harder for the interests of barristers. Scriven and his supporters have already swept the board in this year's elections to the Bar Committee.

Only at the Bar could a proposal to make the leader accountable to the membership be resisted as a radical idea damaging to the profession. The condescending argument presented by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Bar — that the members of the profession cannot be trusted to make an informed choice on who should lead them — is an insult to barristers. The barristers' argument is similar to that advanced in opposition to the Reform Act of 1832. It will have no greater success tomorrow.

The sad aspect of the debate within the Bar is that both sides wrongly see the interests of barristers as co-extensive with the public interest. Barristers, whether from the establishment or from the opposition, resist any suggestion that solicitors should be allowed a right of audience in higher courts and access to senior judicial posts, or that clients should be allowed direct access to barristers and should be offered effective methods of complaining about the service they have received. The disagreement at the AGM is not about these important matters of principle, but about whether the ruling group has done enough to promote the Bar's interests in such respects.

The Bar insists on preserving its indefensible restrictive practices in an age of competition. When challenged, it asserts that a healthy Bar is in the public interest, never pausing to consider why restrictive practices should be necessary to preserve what is allegedly, so manifestly excellent.

The Annual Statement of the Bar for 1984-5 indicates with clarity what is wrong with the profession. It solemnly declares (no doubt after extensive discussion and deliberation) that "it is inappropriate for chambers to use compliment slips on



# The market reckons that if ICI gets hurt the others will be damaged too



## NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

THE MARKET was nervous anyway, but ICI sent a chill blast across the floor. Share prices are now at their lowest this year. Will the mood continue gloom?

You have to start with ICI

itself. ICI is not a typical British company, in that it is more affected by the things the market is worrying about than most. One is currencies. Put at its simplest, ICI makes much of its money selling basic chemicals in the European market: if sterling rises against the German mark, it makes it harder for the company to generate decent margins.

Another worry is the general level of demand. If the CBI is half right in its new reserved attitude towards the growth of demand, ICI gets hit harder than most. Run a chemical plant full tilt and it makes a lot of money; run it well below capacity and it does not.

Yet another is interest rates. The Chancellor says he expects a further fall, but the fact remains that even on quite optimistic assumptions about UK rates, they

will still remain higher than those of most industrial countries through the autumn.

For ICI none of this spells utter disaster. This great British company, paradoxically, has saved itself (and its chairman should take a bow for this) by becoming less British. It is, increasingly, a diversified international company, the art of increasingly learning the art of squeezing larger profits out of its products where it can do so, thanks either to product quality or market dominance.

But it is precisely because the financial markets have come to appreciate these qualities, that they were disappointed yesterday. If a company which is perceived to have transformed its management can only stand still in profits, for the half year, what about the others?

Indeed it is worse than that, for ICI was ahead in profits in the first quarter; in the second quarter it was

down. And sterling has risen further, since the accounting period ended.

Currency and interest rates affect different companies in different ways: we tend to think of the mass of British industry as homogeneous, but it isn't. Cash-rich companies actually benefit from high interest rates; any company where a dollar-denominated raw material is a significant cost will be very relaxed about the fall in the dollar this year; for retailers, current demand matters far more than currency fluctuations; and so on.

Given all this, had the ICI standstill come in isolation it probably would not have mattered. But since it comes on top of a lacklustre string of results, plus all the mayhem in the electronics sector, it is upsetting. It appears to confirm more general fears.

Looking ahead, there will be some help from falling

interest rates. It seems reasonable to expect base rates around 10 per cent come November. There will be some help, perhaps, from a rerating of the D mark as an investment currency.

You can still postulate that the dollar has a long way to fall, and yet see sterling fairly stable in weighted terms, with the rise of the pound against the dollar offset by a fall against the mark.

The authorities really do not want sterling to rise much more on the weighted measure if they can possibly help it. But they haven't yet agreed to a policy to affect the DM/dollar rate.

## Oil gamble

OF COURSE, as far as sterling is concerned, the other big influence is Opec. Yesterday's events are perhaps about the middle of the expected range. They could have broken up in complete disarray, but equally they could have been much more

restrained and discussed production quotas as well as prices.

Indeed, the meeting was interesting as much for what was not said as for what was. The meeting they decided not to talk about quotas. Once you make that decision, all the talk of price adjustments is really dicker.

Further 500,000 barrels a day on top of its present 1.5 million barrels a day production at the moment.

In fact in private discussions one oil major has already told Saudi Arabia that it must find ways of cutting its price further. Saudi Arabia, along with Venezuela, is the most sophisticated of the whole Opec membership.

In the months ahead two things need to happen. One is that Saudi Arabia is going to have to find the most subtle methods possible of shaving its price in such a way as no one will notice. The other is that demand will have to nudge up again, if even slightly.

So essentially Opec has taken a gamble. By ignoring the most difficult issue—production quotas—and by trimming and twisting the present price structure rather than adjusting it in any fundamental way, it is relying on something of a turning up. Like demand for oil.

## Best hope

FINALLY a word about the Abbey National mortgage cut. Like Opec, building societies are driven by the laws of supply and demand, even if in this instance, unlike Opec, Abbey National is abolishing differentials.

No, the similarity is that at present interest rates the building societies are beginning to have difficulty in shifting the mortgages. They are starting to meet market resistance to high interest rates, the housing market's equivalent to energy conservation, if you will.

In terms of its monetary impact this is an encouraging sign, for it shows that high interest rates are starting to have the effect they ought, in economic theory, to have. It has taken a while for it to happen, but it is the best of news, some 10 per cent base rates, come the autumn.

## Minimal price drop crucial to oil power game

# Opec outcome represents setback for Saudis

From John Hooper in Geneva

One of OPEC's most fiercely contested conferences ended here yesterday with a significant victory for the radical camp and a galling but perhaps temporary setback for the Saudis. The outcome has not only shifted the balance of advantage within OPEC, but could eventually have important consequences for the war between Iran and Iraq.

Adjustments to the official pricing structure were minimal. By a majority of 10 to three, with Algeria, Iran and Libya dissenting, the ministers voted for reductions of 50 cents for Arabian heavy crude and its equivalents and of 20 cents for Arabian medium and its equivalents. It represents a falling in the average price of OPEC's output of only 14 cents, or less than half a per cent.

It is the insignificance of the drop in crude prices which is crucial to the power game within OPEC and the Near East. Saudi Arabia, which has

been compensating for over-production by other members, is producing only about half of what is allowed under OPEC's quotas.

On Wednesday night, after the ministers had voted by a majority in favour of the changes with Saudi Arabia abstaining, the Kingdom's oil minister demanded a larger share. He was thwarted by the Iranian minister's threat to abandon the conference unless Saudi Arabia fell into line with the majority.

The radicals, who see Saudi Arabia as a client of the US, have long argued that the Kingdom's quota is far too high for a country of its population, and they are determined to ensure that its production is kept down. Iran has a particular incentive because 150,000 barrels a day of Saudi production goes to Iraq in the form of a long-term loan and as the Kingdom's economy goes from bad to worse the pressure to be rather less generous to their neighbours will increase.

Saudi Arabia has several options, although only the first is

free of drawbacks. That would be to reduce the pricing issue when ministers next meet in the autumn—probably, OPEC sources said, on October 3. As he left Geneva, the United Arab Emirates representative, Doctor Mans Saeed Othman, said the gap in price between the various sorts of crude could be an issue then, although OPEC's chairman, Doctor Subroto of Indonesia, had earlier told journalists it would not.

A second course would be to start difficult reduction of price. There have been persistent rumours among the traders in the lobby here that the Saudis are preparing a subtle form of discounting. If it became public, it would ruin the Kingdom's hitherto unimpeachable standing.

The third choice would be to try to secure all or most of the increased demand for OPEC's crude which is expected as winter approaches. But that depends on other members' keeping to their quotas. How much progress was made is not clear.



Alan Bond

## Higher offer for brewer

By Mary Brasler

The Australian businessman, Mr Alan Bond, has increased the pressure on the larger group, Castlemaine Toobies, to agree a takeover from his Bond Corporation by unveiling a record \$550 million new offer for the company.

In less than a week Mr Bond has raised his terms from \$47.10 a share to \$57.50, and his target from 50 per cent of Castlemaine to all the outstanding shares in issue.

Castlemaine XXXX brewer rejected outright the original terms and remains unimpressed with the revised offer. Any hopes that Mr Bond has of winning board support were dashed as a public row broke out between the two companies. Bond Corporation claimed that Castlemaine's managing director, Mr Lloyd Zampetti, had said a full bid at a higher price might be regarded more favourably.

Mr Zampetti said a price had never been mentioned.

One of these is the Allied Lyons group which holds a 24 per cent shareholding obtained at \$56.10 a share earlier this year.

The link between the two companies has led to Castlemaine XXXX being marketed in the UK by Allied (as well as being promoted by the touring Australian cricket team).

Allied is sitting firmly on the fence in the battle. The company has refused to comment on how it will vote its key shareholding which compares to Bond's own stake of 17 per cent.

The Australian Trade Practices Commission is showing no sign of wanting to become involved at this stage either despite the fact that if the bid succeeds Bond will control about 40 per cent of the Australian beer market.

## Sotheby's cuts jobs

By Donald Wintersgill, Art Sales Correspondent

SOOTHEBY'S is to cut back its business in North America. It is sacking 51 people, mostly administrative, and will turn away the less valuable objects offered to it for auction.

At the same time, the president of Sotheby's North American company, James Lally, is leaving to "pursue his own interests."

Sotheby's has always found the control of costs difficult. In its difficulties in the early 1980s making losses, and cut its staff from 2,000 to about 1,400. Shortly after this pruning the company was bought in 1983, by American multi-millionaire, Alfred Taubman, and his associates.

Sotheby's said yesterday that its sales for the season now ending were \$400.7 million worldwide. This was a rise over the previous season of 25.3 per cent in sterling terms and of 17.1 per cent in dollar terms.

Christie's sales world-wide, also announced yesterday, were £337.5 million, and increase of 1.1 per cent.

## City and unions agree on industry loans

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

Business and trade union leaders have agreed a plan in lending facilities for industrial investment, and have come to an agreement on the structure of a partly state-owned bank which could plug the gap.

The industrial and union representatives, who have produced their report for the National Economic Development Council, reached no conclusion on whether the government should actually set up a national investment bank, instead confining their debate to the need for, and shape of, a new credit institution.

But the assistant general secretary of the TUC, Mr David Lees, one of the union spokesmen, said yesterday: "For the first time, the City and the trade unions have agreed on how a new investment bank could channel long-term funds into building up British industry."

It is an idea whose time has come. Even if the present government will not create the new institution, it is now clear that a national investment bank will be one of the top priorities of a Labour government.

The bank, the NEDC committee on finance for industry suggests, would lend both to the private sector for long-term high risk projects in particular, and would also provide loans for large scale projects, most notably for infrastructure

developments, in both the private and public sectors. The proposal is not as radical as the National Investment Bank which Labour will establish if it returns to power, but there are material similarities between the two concepts of a new lending institution.

Both identify areas of industrial investment which cannot presently obtain funding on an acceptable basis. Both believe that some projects merit loans on a preferential basis, both in terms of long redemption dates, and lower interest fees.

The NEDC's theoretical bank, unlike Labour's however, would only be partly state-controlled and would involve private sector participation and ownership. Banks and other financial institutions, it is suggested, would own most of the bank with the government holding a probable 39 per cent stake.

Government guarantees would be necessary to enable the bank to lend cheaply, and over long periods, to suitable projects, although the bulk of the bank's funding resources would be raised from the private sector through issues of different forms of loan stock, House of Commons coupon or "deep discount" bonds.

The necessary initial funding would be between £50 and £100 million at the very least, the committee has agreed, which would give the bank a lending capacity between £1.25 billion and £2.5 billion.

## EEC agrees to end steel industry aid

From Derek Brown in Brussels

State aids to the heavily subsidised European steel industry are to be phased out over the next three and a half years.

Community industry ministers endorsed a Commission plan to ban operating subsidies from the end of this year. Other aids, production quotas, and price controls, will be dismantled by the end of 1988.

Yesterday's broad agreement is likely to be followed by fierce argument in the autumn. Ministers will then be competing for national shares of production quotas. In the last few years of the strict control regime.

They will also have to define continuing aids for environmental improvement, research, and most controversially, closure of redundant plants. The Community industry has shed 32 million tonnes of capacity since 1942, and 350,000 jobs since 1974. But the Commission says it still has 30 million tonnes of surplus capacity, about 14 per cent of the current total.

Most steel producing countries

tries to retain closure aids to pay for redundancies and site clearance. The Commission too is prepared to put Community money into social and regional aids in badly affected areas.

But Germany, with a relatively efficient industry believes such aids will become a hidden production subsidy. And, Britain wants them restricted to small undertakings moving completely out of the steel business.

Last night the ministers briefly discussed the latest looming steel export dispute with the United States which some observers believe could flare into a full scale trade war.

The US wants drastic curbs on EEC exports in 17 categories. Last year they were running at a record 633,000 tonnes. The Community has agreed to cut back but has indignantly rejected Washington's demand for a 25 per cent reduction on 1984 levels. Next week the US is expected to announce unilateral action, to which the Community will certainly retaliate.

## Imperial in new sale talks

By Mary Brasler

Imperial Group is making a second attempt to sell its troubled Howard Johnson motel chain to the US hotels group, Marriott Corporation.

Talks between the two groups have re-started after breaking down last month when Marriott pulled out. But Imps was quick to play down any hopes that the long running HoJo sale saga might finally reach a successful conclusion.

Imps may be talking but it remained publicly determined yesterday that it had not even decided whether to sell HoJo, which lost it \$8.6 million in the first half of the year.

News of the reopened discussions came not from Imps but from Marriott, who, as Imps slightly tartly pointed out, felt obliged to make a statement to the New York stock exchange.

Marriott has returned to the fray in partnership with Prime Motor Inns, which is believed to be interested in taking the motor lodges, leaving Marriott with the restaurant chain.

Imps shares rose 3p to 169p.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Inquiry on lira

THE Public Prosecutor's office in Milan has opened an investigation into the causes of the sudden collapse of the lira on the foreign exchanges last Friday, legal sources said yesterday.

The investigation would try to establish whether there were any irregularities on the market leading up to the crash.

At the official fixing on Friday the lira temporarily lost nearly a fifth of its value against the US dollar, dropping to 2,200 lire per 1,940 the day before. It was quoted yesterday at around 1,912 lire, just four per cent below Thursday's level.

THE full Takeover Panel yesterday upheld its executive's ruling that Debenhams talks with a number of shop-in-shop concessionaires—including Burton's Dorothy Perkins—did not breach the panel's code of conduct.

Shares in Debenhams yesterday eased 2p to 312p ahead of today's formal rejection to Burton's latest bid of 570 million. House of Fraser now holds 12.7 per cent. Habitat Mothercare bought another 600,000 shares in Burton to help support the price, but Burton's shares dipped another 8p to 435p.

COMPANIES should give their most expert engineers the same pay and status as top managers, a government committee suggested yesterday. The final report of the 14-month Butler inquiry into Britain's shortage of high skills also emphasised the need for firms to encourage switches from technological jobs into marketing or manufacturing and back again. Details, page 19.

THE government's British Technology Group disposed of its shareholdings in 17 companies over the past 16 months and cut its holdings to eight, all of them investments inherited from the old National Enterprise Board. The result was a pre-tax profit of £22 million. BTG's other arm—the National Research Development Corporation—made a pre-tax profit of £7.7 million, compared with £3.3 million. The main reason was increased royalties from insecticide inventions.

BRITISH Telecom yesterday announced a deal with the US State Department for a direct satellite service, via rooftop aerials, between the Department and the US Embassy in London. The deal is one of several direct transatlantic links negotiated by BT, including services for fax instruments, the Financial Times, and American Express.

FINANCIER Sir James Goldsmith is taking over as chairman of the Crown Zellerbach Corporation under an agreement reached yesterday with the CZ directors, Goldsmith's Generali, an Austrian company, which holds over 50 per cent of the CZ shares, has put forward revised restructuring plans for the group.

THE offers by Mr Asil Nadir's Polly Peck for full control of Cornhill Holdings and Inter City Investment Group have been declared unconditional after receiving acceptances respectively from 90.5 per cent and 71.4 per cent of the shares not already owned.

## Caparo to sue over Fidelity

By Margaretta Parnano, City Correspondent

Caparo Industries is suing two former directors of Fidelity, the television and radio group, Touché Ross, over alleged overstatement of profits and stock values. It is seeking damages in excess of £10 million.

The writs, which were served yesterday, allege fraud and misrepresentation against Mr Steven Dickman, and his brother, Mr Robert Dickman, in respect of Fidelity's accounts for the year to March 31, 1984. The accounts showed profits of £1.3 million.

Touché Ross, who are still Fidelity's auditors, are being sued for negligence for auditing the accounts last year. Touché Ross said yesterday the firm plans to vigorously defend itself against the allegations.

Caparo, the engineering group built up and headed by Mr Swraj Paul, claims that profits were overstated by £1.7 million and stock values were substantially overstated.

The overstatement in the accounts, claims Mr Paul, would have changed the published results from the £1.3 million profit to a £400,000 loss. Caparo said £141 million in taking over Fidelity and has since written off £7.9 million following its review of the group's finances.

It alleges that some stock included in the accounts did not exist.

Mr Paul added yesterday: "I am confident that Fidelity remains a fundamentally sound business with good long-term prospects. We now require recovery of a substantial proportion of the purchase price to accord with the company's true value at the time of purchase."

## No heir apparent

By Mary Brasler

The prospect of a first loss from STC when it reports figures in two weeks time is accelerating efforts in the City to find a replacement for chairman Sir Kenneth Corfield.

Fuelled by investor disquiet at STC's shock forecast of poor results only a few months after a £168 million cash call, a few City advisers are using their contacts to come up with an alternative to Sir Kenneth.

STC said yesterday that they knew of no potential replacement chairman or chief executive. No-one has yet been appointed and it is not clear how far advanced the "head hunt" is. Sir Kenneth is 61 and only six months away from the company's nominal retirement age of 62. However he could opt to carry on for a further three years. STC added yesterday that the question of a successor had not so far arisen.

It was to be expected that there would be further repercussions for Sir Kenneth from STC's results. According to stockbrokers Henry Cooke Lamden foreign currency dealings have lost the group £28 million wiping out trading profits from ICI. It is not clear where responsibility for the currency contracts lies but many investors have nonetheless laid blame for the first half downturn at Sir Kenneth's door.

support from the company's Lord Brothers. In the House of Lords debate on Wednesday Lord Bruce-Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury between well aware that there were conflicting views about the legal ownership of the TSB, he said that judgment of the Treasury's legal counsel. There were no basis of that advice that he supervised the approach to legislation.

## US lowers growth hopes

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The Reagan Administration has lowered its growth estimates for the American economy this year in a move which would signal even larger budget deficits.

According to new figures prepared by the White House, the economy will grow by 3 per cent this year against the 3.9 per cent projection submitted to congress in the February budget. However, even this more modest growth target may be missed after the sluggish 1 per cent rise in the gross national product recorded in the first quarter.

The sluggishness of the American economy and the inability of the Administration to do much about it despite lower interest rates is likely to be a major uncertainty on the international economic scene in the months ahead. Much of the world has been reliant on the vigorous engine of US growth to pull it out of economic recession.

Although the White House's mid-year economic forecasts are normally released in July or early August, this year they have been kept under wraps while the difficult budget negotiations continue. However, the new forecast was the cause of some scepticism yesterday

since the US economy would need to bounce back strongly in the second half by around 5 per cent to achieve the growth envisaged: an occurrence many private sector economists believe is unlikely.

Under normal circumstances the lowering of the growth forecast could be expected to add substantially to the budget deficit. However, the White House argues that the \$9 to \$11 billion increase in the deficit—caused by lower growth estimates—would be partly offset by reduced interest rate costs caused by the federal reserve's easing of monetary policy in recent months.

## ICI first half year 1985

The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC announce the following unaudited trading results of the Group for the first half of 1985, with comparative figures for 1984.

ICI Group financial highlights			
*Group means ICI and its subsidiaries. £m means millions of pounds sterling			
1984	1985		
First Half	First Half		
£m	£m		
Turnover (Sales to customers outside the Group)			
1,182	2,346	Chemicals—UK	1,240
3,105	6,474	—Overseas	3,874
518	1,089	Oil	468
4,805	9,909	Total turnover	5,582
532	1,034	Profit before taxation	535
315	605	Net profit attributable to parent company, before extraordinary items	319
51.4p	98.2p	Earnings (before extraordinary items) per £1 Ordinary Stock	50.7p
12.0p	30.0p	Dividends (net) per £1 Ordinary Stock	13.0p

\*Abridged results: full accounts with an unaudited audit report have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Trading results for the first nine months of 1985 will be announced on Thursday 24th October 1985.



Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

July 1985



## Universities told to dismantle barriers

A GOVERNMENT report yesterday demanded greater multi-disciplinary emphasis in higher education to meet the needs of the 90s.

The Butcher committee, set up 14 months ago to tackle the shortage of computer-skilled people, said in its final report that universities and polytechnics should break down departmental barriers to provide more multi-disciplinary courses.

The report also recognised that job structures nowadays are "in a state of constant evolution and that the conflict deepening between industry wanting precisely trained people immediately able to undertake productive work, and on the other hand, a supply of broadly educated men and women capable of adapting over the years to a succession of changes which cannot be predicted in advance."

But the report failed to acknowledge that warnings of such coming post-industrial changes were available more than 20 years ago; that other nations, notably Japan and the United States, have already adapted to those warnings; and that analyses of Britain's current and future shortages of skills in information technology (IT) were put to successive governments in the 70s.

The report provided other examples of the gap between rhetoric and reality. It singled out for praise some education and training schemes which are in the process of being scrapped, emasculated or reduced by the Government itself, because they cost more than shallow training.

These are: the Microelectronics Education Programme in the schools, which is to be killed next March and replaced with a more traditional scheme, with funding cut from \$5 million a year to \$2.2 million; the Threshold and Itce schemes, which train unqualified school-leavers in IT and are now threatened with abolition in MSC reviews; and the Open University.

The report concluded with a series of general motherhood statements and with no suggestion of any coordinated government action to implement them.

Companies were told to define their skill needs; pay their top engineers as much as their top managers; set targets for staff taking courses in IT; work more closely with schools; tailor

Butcher sets the scene to meet the nineties



Architects of the 'new partnership' — John Butcher

their recruitment to aptitudes as well as paper qualifications; recognise the role of women in information technology; and set up training company partnerships with universities.

Professional institutions were told to define the IT skills needed by their members and to do something about providing them. Schools were told to encourage a broader curriculum and find more mathematics and science teachers. Universities and polytechnics should "pursue the development of IT across a wide range of courses and revise courses to reflect current trends and the multi-disciplinary requirements of employers." And all should collaborate in setting up a national database of IT training programmes.

The report identified two main outcomes of the committee's work:

The formation of an IT Skills Agency through the CBI Education Foundation to implement "the new partnership" between industry and education; and the allocation last March of \$43 million to provide about 4,000 extra places in higher education for engineering and technology over the next three years.

The report said the emphasis now needed to be on the skills needs of the users of IT in industry and commerce

as well as of the IT supplier companies. The increasing importance of modern techniques of manufacturing engineering needed greater recognition.

Introducing the report yesterday, Mr John Butcher, junior Industry Minister and the committee's chairman, said the Government had recognised, across all departments, that the skills of the workforce, at all levels, formed the key to the nation's economic performance.

Equally, there was an increasing awareness on the part of employers, the education system, and the industrial community at large, that the skills shortages could not be ignored.

The committee's work and the so-called Shift in higher education towards science and technology have raised fears that attempts are being made not just to raise the output of graduates to meet specific need in areas such as microelectronic engineering and computer science, but to weaken true education merely in order to provide skills that industry itself should be providing for its recruits.

Mr Butcher, in presenting an earlier report from his committee, half-acknowledged that danger by admitting that British industry was not ready for the sort of harsh tax penalties imposed by some countries on companies that do not invest in training and retraining.

Yesterday, Mr Peter Brooke, junior Education Minister, a member of the committee, answered the alarm bells created in the "humanities world" by The Shift. He pointed out that so far there had only been a 4 per cent swing and the room for further shift would be only about 0.5 per cent a year.

He agreed that Japan and the United States were well ahead of us in the race to produce the graduate-skilled populations needed to create wealth in the future, and this was "very worrying."

But he pointed out that university education in Japan was substantially provided by the private sector. In terms of the proportion of GNP spent on education, Britain was not out of line. Also, about a third of British school-leavers with two A-levels opted not to go on to higher education.

Peter Large

## Why profit is blind to apartheid

David Simpson investigates the strong British connection in South Africa

THE imposition of full trading sanctions by the UK would be a severe blow to the South African economy, but it is not clear whether such measures will be introduced by any other nation.

Only one other nation even begins to approach the magnitude of Britain's financial involvement in South Africa and that is the US, but not even the weight of the American dollar supports the Botha regime as much as the UK pound.

Britain's commitment to South Africa takes three identifiable forms: trade, direct investment and indirect investment.

On the trade level, it is not surprising that Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe is so resolute in his insistence that Britain will not break off economic relations with South Africa.

In the mid 1970s, the UK slipped briefly into a trade deficit but has now firmly established a surplus which rose to a record level of \$500 million last year, with exports of visible goods exceeding \$1.2 billion.

South Africa is Britain's twelfth largest trading partner and two per cent of all UK exports head for the Cape. The UK is even more vital to South Africa as a purchaser of that nation's goods, in particular its raw materials.

Each UK citizen consumes \$24 of South African goods each year, equal to almost \$10, twice as great a per capita consumption as any other nation. Britain is followed by West Germany and Japan.

This year, Britain's trade relationship with South Africa has followed the recent trend, with exports reaching over \$446 million in the first five months of 1985.

It is noticeable that many of the products exported in bulk to South Africa have both a high added value, and are thus essential to the UK economy, and have a high strategic value, and are thus

essential to the South African economy.

Almost half the products exported consist of machinery, ranging from plant to data processing equipment, and from motor vehicles to power generating machinery.

Chemicals and petroleum-related products are another area of trading significance, as are scientific and controlling instruments. On the con-

and last year, the value of UK re-exports to South Africa is put at \$350 million by the UKSATA.

Trade is only one minor area of Britain's profiteering from South Africa. More immediately, British industry is up to its armpits in directly backing the South African economy, taking advantage of apartheid through subsidiaries and joint enterprises in

each have investments of about \$500 million, little more than a tenth of the British involvement.

All told, 7 per cent of the UK's total overseas investment has been lodged in South Africa where 400 groups quoted on the UK Stock Exchange own one or more subsidiaries. In fact, of the 2,000 overseas owned companies in South Africa,

the American investment level.

With US banks now imposing a freeze on South African government lending, British banks are stepping into the gap to an increased degree, with banks such as Hambros, Hill Samuel, and Guinness Mahon, all with strong South African connections, having notably indicated their level of lending, and improved the terms of their lending, over the past year.

And the cash of British private investors, and investment institutions such as pension funds, and unit trusts, is playing a central role, through the Johannesburg stock exchange, in financing local South African industry, particularly mining companies.

The volume of the British financial involvement in South Africa and the sheer scale of the UK's profit from this investment, leaves the observer unsurprised at the fact that the Government pays only lip service to its anti-apartheid stance, and refusing to impose the economic sanctions which could genuinely bring an end to apartheid.

The Government's real views were summarised in a speech given in Cape Town in March this year by Christopher Roberts, the chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Mr Roberts spoke warmly to an audience of local businessmen of the UK's traditional trading links with South Africa and of the importance of extending these and Britain's participation in South Africa's economy.

More than any other nation, the UK, through its importance as an export market and source of finance for South Africa, could bring economic pressure to bear to have apartheid swept away. But the profit motive continues to override social and human principles.

Direct investment by overseas nations in factories, plant and equipment in South Africa approaches \$12 billion, and \$5 billion of this, over 40 per cent of the total, is owned by British companies.

sumer front, beverages, which can largely be construed as Scotch whisky, comprise the largest single export group.

But the UK's profit from trading with South Africa is not confined to visible trade. Instead, it has an even greater surplus on its provision of insurance, shipping, banking and other financial services which fall into the invisible trade category.

The most accurate figures on these are compiled by the UK South Africa Trade Association which calculated that invisible exports peaked in 1983 at the top of the South African economic boom.

Then, the value of services exported was put at \$1.78 billion, double the value of the visible goods exported at the time. Last year, the UKSATA estimates, the UK sold services worth \$1.3 billion, still more than the value of manufactured goods.

There is a third and little reported strand of UK export surplus with South Africa. This consists of re-exports of raw materials first imported from South Africa and which have had value added during their sojourn in the UK.

In the main, these materials are diamonds and gold,

the republic.

Direct investment by overseas nations in factories, plant and equipment in South Africa approaches \$12 billion, and \$5 billion of this, over 40 per cent of the total, is owned by British companies.

The value of British direct investment in South Africa has fallen slightly over the past three years, with some companies, such as Associated British Foods, Prudential Insurance, Metal Box, and DRG taking advantage of exchange control relaxations to pull out of, or reduce the size of their investments in, South Africa.

But while the total worth of British industry's direct stake in South Africa may be declining, its proportionate contribution to the aggregate value of all overseas direct investment has not.

The country with the second largest stake is the US which accounts for just over 20 per cent of the total, the value of its holdings having fallen since the Congressional stance against American investment in the apartheid regime. Behind the US comes West Germany, which has about \$1 billion invested, while France, which has, of course, now imposed sanctions, and Switzerland

over 50 per cent are controlled from the UK.

Among the largest are Plessey, the GEC subsidiary, Marconi, and the computer group ICL, all manufacturers of high-tech defence and communications-related products.

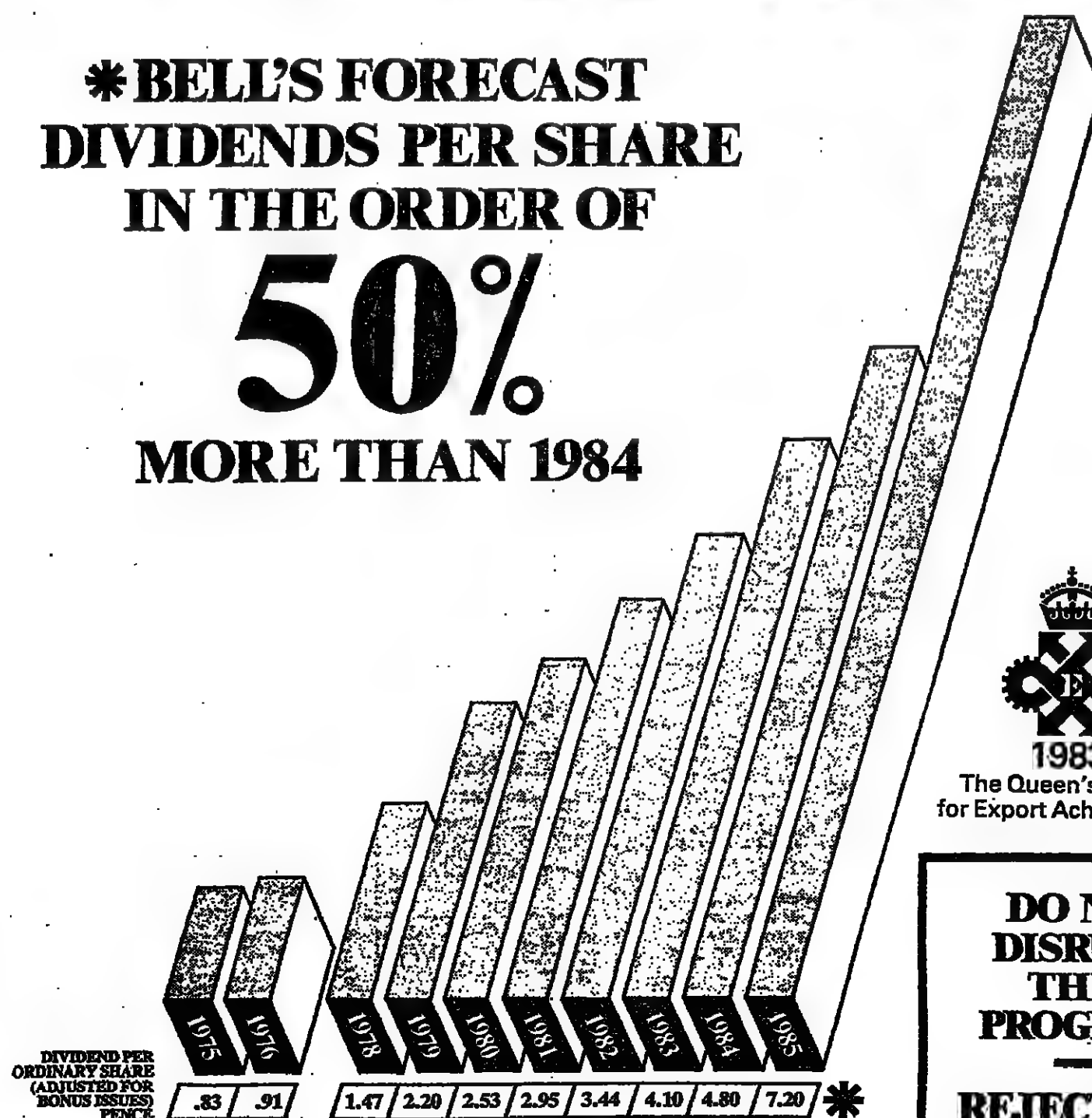
The most famous British involvement in South Africa, however, lies in the banking sector. There, two UK banks, Standard Chartered and Barclays, monopolise two thirds of all South Africa's domestic banking business, as well as acting to raise external funding for the Government. Barclays is also renowned for its strong presence in the illegally occupied Namibia, and for its role as banker to South Africa's armed forces.

But the value of Britain's investment in South Africa plant and machinery is topped by the cash it has pumped indirectly into the South African economy, either as bank loans or as shareholdings in South African companies.

The value of these loans and portfolio holdings currently top \$6 billion, a sum equalled only by the value of the US indirect investment, and forecast soon to surpass

# BELL'S DIVIDEND GROWTH CONTINUES

\*BELL'S FORECAST  
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MORE THAN 1984



Note: Years 1975 and 1976 are the twelve month periods to 31st December. Years 1978 onwards are the twelve months period to 30th June.

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR  
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## Tiphook plc

Although the Listing Particulars and the Prospectus advertised on 22nd July, 1985 correctly showed adjusted net tangible assets at 30th April, 1985 of £12.6 million, the document mistakenly attributed the whole of this figure to ordinary share capital. After the deduction of £3.5 million of preference share capital and the redemption premium payable thereon the adjusted net tangible assets attributable to Ordinary Shareholders at 30th April, 1985 amounted to £8.7 million. Accordingly the net tangible assets per Ordinary Share should have been shown on pages 3 and 16 as 62.5p and not 90.1p.

The Application List for the Offer for Sale which opened on 25th July, 1985 will now remain open until at least 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th July, 1985. Applicants who have submitted applications on or prior to 25th July, 1985 have been requested to and must, if they wish to receive an allotment, confirm their application by completing a form which was sent to them on Thursday, 25th July, 1985 and returning it by not later than 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th July, 1985 to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Department, 24 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BA.

It is expected that Letters of Acceptance will be posted on Friday, 2nd August, 1985 and that dealings will commence on Monday, 5th August, 1985.

A copy of this document, which constitutes a supplement to the Listing Particulars comprised in the above-mentioned Prospectus, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration.

Any enquiries with regard to the above arrangements should be addressed to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Department, 24 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BA (Telephone 01-623 4356).

COPIES OF THE OFFER FOR SALE (INCORPORATING LISTING PARTICULARS AND A SUPPLEMENT THERETO) CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FROM:

Tiphook plc  
Chelsea House  
26 Market Square  
Bromley, Kent, BR1 1NA

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited  
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London EC3V 9BA

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc  
New Issues Department  
24 Lombard Street  
London EC3V 9BA

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited  
York House  
York Street  
Manchester M2 3BB

and from the following branches of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc:  
36 St. Andrew Square  
Edinburgh EH2 2YB  
36-38 Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1NR  
and from the registered office of the Company,  
St. Mary Axe House, 56-60 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BL



# Risk takers more likely to fail

AFRO-Caribbeans who start businesses are more likely to fail than other ethnic groups but this leads to a higher failure rate and even an overall decline in the number of black businesses.

These findings are contained in a study of black minority enterprise in the inner London borough of Brent, published yesterday by the Small Business Research Trust and written by Peter Wilson and John Stanworth. The report is a follow-up to a survey published in 1982.

Asian owned firms on the other hand were more successful with an annual start-up rate well above the national average. Measured against the 1982 base year the crude annual formation rate of the Asian firms was 22 per cent, compared with the national average of 14 per cent — and their failure rate 12 per cent, producing a very substantial net rate of increase of 10 per cent a year. The formation rate of the Afro-Caribbean firms was 10 per cent and their failure rate 13 per cent a year, "revealing an unexpectedly large net numerical decline of 3 per cent a year." The national failure rate is 11 per cent in retail and services, the business area on which both minority groups still depend heavily.

The Asians' share of low order grocery, and confectionery, tobacco and newsagents retailing had in fact



SMALL BUSINESS

marginally increased over the period, suggesting an undiminished dependence on low reward, high effort opportunity in highly competitive markets.

Some Asian entrepreneurs had been successful at effecting a transition into large scale business activity, mainly through acquisition.

Wilson and Stanworth say that there appeared to have been little economic mobility, nor was there much evidence of business development within the Afro-Caribbean group. "These conclusions confirm the need to direct assistance towards enhancing the diversity and complexity of business activity; interventions in the form of advice, counselling and training should be concerned

Two new studies of minority groups in small businesses, one from each side of the Atlantic, have been published recently. Here Clive Woodcock reports on the study made in Brent, below, and, on the right, the US experience. Both studies show that ethnic minorities are still mainly at a disadvantage, although US firms have a readier access to risk capital

as much with quality as with quantity.

Afro-Caribbean business operators, unlike the Asians who had a history of business experience and strong family and community channels of assistance, had all the disadvantages of an alien community without the intermediary mechanisms of business history that were important to survival.

This suggested the need for appropriate interventions to increase the diversity of new firms in the Afro-Caribbean group.

Dependence on local ethnic product markets remained the main weakness. The need to attract wider customer groups had received little attention, although exemplary cases of the transition

from ethnic to wider markets were identified, principally among the Afro-Caribbean firms.

Much of the reaction recorded was reactive to the problems of deprivation, high and rising unemployment, racial harassment and environmental decay, confirming the conclusion of the 1982 report that qualitative development necessitated moving away from the inner city.

Asian firms remained significantly larger than the Afro-Caribbean firms, on the basis of annual turnover but the Afro-Caribbean difference had narrowed, with no obvious explanation for the change.

There were very few profit making firms in the Afro-

Caribbean group but a large number in the Asian group. The majority of firms had sought external finance during the period surveyed, with the Afro-Caribbeans requiring on average about £12,000 and the Asians £27,000.

The finance seeking businesses tended to be less than two years old, active in marketing terms and in terms of premises improvements but poor performers in terms of profit and growth.

Most firms had tried their banks but the Asians also had access to private external sources. Difficulties encountered by the Asian firms with banks were exceptional and only one rejection was recorded but two out of every five of the Afro-Caribbean firms had met problems, either being refused loans or finding the lending terms undesirable.

There was some evidence of a relationship between age, size and performance of the firm and its ability to command financial resources, which is consistent with the evidence on disadvantage in financial markets experienced by the small business population in general.

The acknowledged subjectivity of lending decisions is highly susceptible to allegations of unfair stereotyping and racial discrimination, which even in this study remain as a residual (but not proven) explanation of differential borrowing abilities.

"In this respect, the active role of intermediaries, whether institutional or not, should continue to be encouraged as a mechanism for increasing understanding and ultimately, thereby, improving the formation rate of black firms."

The overall problems and prospects facing the firms were centred on local competition, finance, declining revenues and increasing costs. The firms, especially the Afro-Caribbeans, were also sensitive to local environmental conditions and to the impact of racial discrimination on their trading prospects, particularly the behaviour of customers, both black and white.

Wilson and Stanworth say that public sector assistance has achieved little in spite of the continued existence of clear disability. In the two year period under review, the longer term conditions for real development were still taking root with little significant change expected, but there was no reason to believe that the extent of the special disadvantage suffered by the firms had been perceptibly lessened.

"Black Business in Brent: a study of inner London black enterprise," by Peter Wilson and John Stanworth, £8, from the Small Business Research Trust, 3 Dean Trench Street, London SW1P 3JB.

## Slow rise from a low base

MINORITY interest in business ownership is increasing in the United States with small, minority owned firms showing an ability to take advantage of business opportunities and to compete successfully in the marketplace with a competitive edge.

Research carried out by the US Small Business Administration shows that since 1977 minorities have responded positively to public and private incentives to participate more in business ownership.

The proportion of non-whites in self-employment has increased and they have gained in self-employment in relation to wage and salary jobs, although to a lesser degree than whites.

Minority owned businesses, therefore, appear to be a very diverse group of small firms that are proceeding from a low base of business formation more slowly than all small businesses.

Recently minority owned businesses had also demonstrated their ability to compete successfully and profitably in non-traditional areas of business. This was reflected on a small scale in construction, manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing.

Many minority owned, traditional businesses are small and profitable operations. Research carried out for the SBA on small family owned businesses suggests that these firms may elect to remain small because they are profitable at small scale.

The study found the use of paid family employees, probably strongly motivated and productive, was a strong indicator of high productivity and profitability.

Many minority owned businesses also are family owned and the implications of this research should apply to these small firms.

The participation of minorities in all types of business has not increased as much as among whites. Non-white self-employed increased by 5 per cent between 1977 and 1983 but white self-employment rose by 15 per cent.

In general the minority self-employed are younger than their white counterparts and earn less from their business activities than whites. In fact little more than three-quarters of the white earnings.

The least difference in incomes of white and non-white was for those people who had completed four years at college.

Measures of recent minority business performance are sparse but government and

corporate initiatives to improve minority access to credit and equity capital and increase their participation in procurement have been beneficial, says the SBA. A recent study found that efforts to provide debt and equity finance for minority owned businesses had given minorities incentives to enter new areas and had contributed to the liquidity of viable firms during their early years of development.

These conclusions applied mainly to firms in non-traditional lines of minority owned businesses, such as construction, manufacturing and wholesaling. The study found that minority, non-traditional firms were as profitable as their non-minority counterparts but were more vulnerable to business fluctuations, such as the 1980-82 recession because they carried heavier burdens of long term debt.

The findings of the research might also apply to other types of small businesses. There is no accurate indicator of the demand and supply of bank loans for minority owned firms. Over research shows that minority owned firms are overly dependent on debt funds.

"Short-term financial difficulties, more pronounced among small firms, usually result in loans from families, relatives or shareholders, bank loans or trade credit. Because family incomes of minority owners are lower, the level of savings for business loans may be less than non-minorities."

The number of financings by small business investment companies authorised to help small firms owned and operated by socially or economically disadvantaged people — MESSBICs — has increased every year since 1980.

In 1983, number and amount of MESSBIC financings to small businesses were greater than in any previous year with straight debt financing accounting for most of the total.

The continuing heavy concentration of MESSBICs in straight debt financing has been a major criticism of these companies as a source of equity investment for small firms in these groups. Over time they have made loans to small firms at substantial rates of interest in preference to making equity investments in the firms.

This practice increases the cash flow problems of small firms and may contribute to their financial difficulties and failures. This is particularly relevant as most MESSBIC financings are made to start-up businesses less than three years old.

## Retreat up the Dales

by Stan Abbott

WHEN college lecturers Peter and Ruth Annison gave up comfortable posts to take over an old family business in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales 10 years ago, the term "drop-out" was many lips.

A decade during which their W. R. Outhwaite & Son, ropemakers, has increased turnover 13-fold in real terms, floorspace eightfold, and created jobs in a small, rural community at the rate of one a year has, the Annisons hope, given the lie to the drop-out sneer.

Their experiences in 10 years' steady growth afford a useful lesson in the problems facing the small manufacturer in an area heavily dependent on tourism and other service industries.

With a full and part time workforce of 15, their company is the second biggest manufacturing employer in the Upper Wharfedale market town of Hawes after the Milk Marketing Board creamery with a workforce of about 100.

The Annisons' business dream began in their mid-30s when Peter was a disillusioned senior lecturer in Textile Technology at Trent Polytechnic and Ruth a similarly afflicted lecturer in Institutional Management at Clarendon College, Nottingham.

They believed their expertise could make a real contribution to diversifying an increasingly two-horse (farming and tourism) local economy which offered little incentive to young people with professional ambitions to stay in the dale.

When Tom Outhwaite announced his impending retirement, the Annisons sold their Nottingham home and bought the business "for a small four-figure sum," and a house in the neighbouring village of Askwith.

Although the hut that housed the factory was small — 600 square feet — leaky, poorly heated and subject to flooding by the adjacent beck, the firm did at least have an order book, a limited range of established products and a textile base, giving Peter's

debutante in the subject some relevance.

The variety of tourists visiting the ropeworks shop led indirectly to the firm's first major diversification when casual inquiries from well-ringing enthusiasts from all corners of the country revealed that the major manufacturer of church bell ropes had a lead time of 12 to 15 months.

Getting a foot in the bell rope door proved ludicrously easy, with the entire market reached through the weekly Ringing World, and now the company has a major share of a market supplied by just three firms.

Today W. R. Outhwaite's other specialist lines are low-cost, high-quality banister ropes sold mail order and promoted through the Ideal Homes Exhibition, and barrier ropes for churches, shops, schools and use at public events.

The need to make increasingly longer ropes prompted a two-stage expansion to 1,900 sq ft, bolting the tiny facade of the old works, now almost completely rebuilt.

For the far more ambitious current expansion, which will see floor area more than doubled to 4,800 sq ft and enable them to make the longest bell ropes, the Annisons found out just how restrictive can be the red tape tying the hands of various grant-aiding bodies.

"Given the climate of help for small businesses, we thought with our record for growth we would have no difficulty getting grant aid," said Ruth.

In fact, CoSIRA had a scheme for aiding the conversion of old buildings to workshops, while the tourist board had one to help construction of new buildings for tourist use — but the Annisons were building a new workshop and thereby releasing space for the tourist function, their shop.

The Annisons pay well in excess of the Ropery, Twine and Net Wages Council rate and have just rewarded their employees with the first payment in a profit-sharing

scheme, equivalent to 8 per cent on basic pay.

Although money comes more easily from tourism — the retail and manufacturing sides of the business contribute roughly equal shares to profits but the latter employs three times as many — the

Annisons have not forgotten their original mission. They believe their continuing building programme — creating three new full-time jobs this year — is a mark of their commitment to expanding their manufacturing activity in the dale.

Ruth and Peter Annison and family business

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## The local struggle for jobs

### FORUM

ALMOST 44,000 people are now registered as unemployed in Sheffield. This is three times the figure of 1980, and the last year has seen off not only the remnants of large-scale cutlery manufacture but also much of the steel making and engineering which has been so long a major part of what Sheffield stands for. In 1981 the City Council established an Employment Department which has to date saved or created 1,500 jobs to build a modest bridgehead against the tide which has put so many Sheffielders out of work.

Early in 1985 a Business Management Development Programme (BMDDP) was set up at Sheffield City Polytechnic sponsored jointly by the Polytechnic and the city's Employment Department. The aim of BMDDP is to support those people in Sheffield trying to create work, jobs and wealth in small businesses.

The help comes from utilising the various professional skills of polytechnic staff — accountants, designers, computer and systems people, management and business specialists — and harnessing these to the particular needs of selected small businesses. Training can be identified as lacking certain skills and knowledge.

In Sheffield, as elsewhere, we have the problem of a "balkanisation" of know-

ledge — knowhow, expertise and skills are locked up in specialised institutions, the polytechnic, the university, the research institutes, while outside there are dozens of businesses crying out for help, to survive and to develop.

Companies with full order books but because they were too busy producing and didn't watch the cash, engineers lovingly produce ingenious products and haven't a clue how to sell them; they need the work with clapped out equipment because they know nothing of investment loans or grants.

To meet these needs the last few years has seen an explosive growth of "small business advisory services" — advice freely given from behind a counter. At the other end of the scale consultants specialising in small business will do "job and finish" reports for £200-£400 per day, often working on behalf of banks and other funding agencies.

There are few people working in the middle ground offering "hands on" or "hand holding" help inside the business over the length of time it takes to see the firm through the current crisis and on to the next stage in its development. It's one thing to say "you need a new bookkeeping system" or "you need to do a market survey" but which of the five ex-student workers operating in an old warehouse is going to do that?

Small businesses need appropriate "hands on" professional help in the right amounts, at the right time, delivered in the right language and at a pace of learning which they can cope with. This sort of help can only be delivered in a partnership of professionals and business members which recognises differences of knowledge and experience on the one hand and business ownership on the other — within a relationship of equality.

Broadly we follow a four-step strategy with businesses who want to work with us, key questions at each phase:

Initial Evaluation — meeting people, studying accounts and existing reports, checking over a basic list of needs and making a preliminary assessment of what help is needed.

Business Appraisal — A full business review, assessing strengths / weaknesses, threats / opportunities; specifying options and making projections.

Business Plan — developing a statement of intent with targets, resource implications and what action is needed over the next 12 months.

Implementation — Reviewing progress against the plan, monthly basis, taking action and specific consultancies as appropriate.

For the professional who steps down off the high, dry ground of professional knowledge, into the swamp and "mess" that is the business world, there are a number of alligators lurking, not to be found in the groves of academe. First there is the challenge of making what I

know relevant to people struggling to make ends meet — and the satisfaction of breaking out of the self-sealing circle of lectures to student back to lectures.

Secondly there are "political" problems. The city's employment department lends money and is accountable to a new working class circle of lecturers — our reports should be on the firm for the department and not for the firms on the business and owned by the business members. Some firms see us as a handy lever for raising funds out of the public purse.

Thirdly, there are problems of trust with businesses — why should they trust us, secure, well paid professionals? Their environment is not friendly and accountants and bankers often wield the knives.

Firms develop a number of survival strategies in relation to "development agencies": they may be overprotective — jealous of their baby and too sensitive to take scrutiny or criticism; they may open to a fault, throwing themselves on the mercy of the development agency and trapped into a continuing diet of "help" or, often they may be bargaining — withholding information, playing their cards close to their chest, out to get anything going usually money and generally showing very low trust.

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## Getting out on the streets

### SIGNPOST

ENTREPRENEURSHIP in its purest form is probably represented by the market trader — and it is no secret that Marks and Spencer had its origins in a market stall — and with an eye for developing potential new businesses the London Enterprise Agency has produced a very useful guide to running a market stand.

As the agency points out, London's street markets are currently blossoming and many people are interested in becoming market traders. In fact capital there is a large number of markets owned and operated by local boroughs as well as several well-established private markets.

There is no standard procedure for how a market is run and the availability of space, costs, methods of hiring, and restrictions on the type of goods which can be sold vary enormously.

The agency's guide not only covers general points on running a stand but also lists the major markets in London, their availability and procedure required to book a stand.

The guide, Running a Market Stand, is free from London Enterprise Agency, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, telephone (01) 226 2675.

A EUROPEAN conference on fostering and financing local business and employment



# Look what's happened at Britoil since the Government sold 51% of its shares.



In November 1982, Britoil became a publicly quoted company when the Government sold 51% of its shares to the public. Since then Britoil's achievements have been most impressive. Britoil is one of the country's leading oil and gas companies. And it's one of the world's largest companies engaged primarily in exploration and production. Since 1981, its profits after tax have virtually doubled.

Today, Britoil has the greatest share of exploration acreage of any company on the UK Continental Shelf.

During 1984 it produced 61,000,000 barrels of oil - nearly 6,000,000 gallons a day and 69 billion cubic feet of gas.

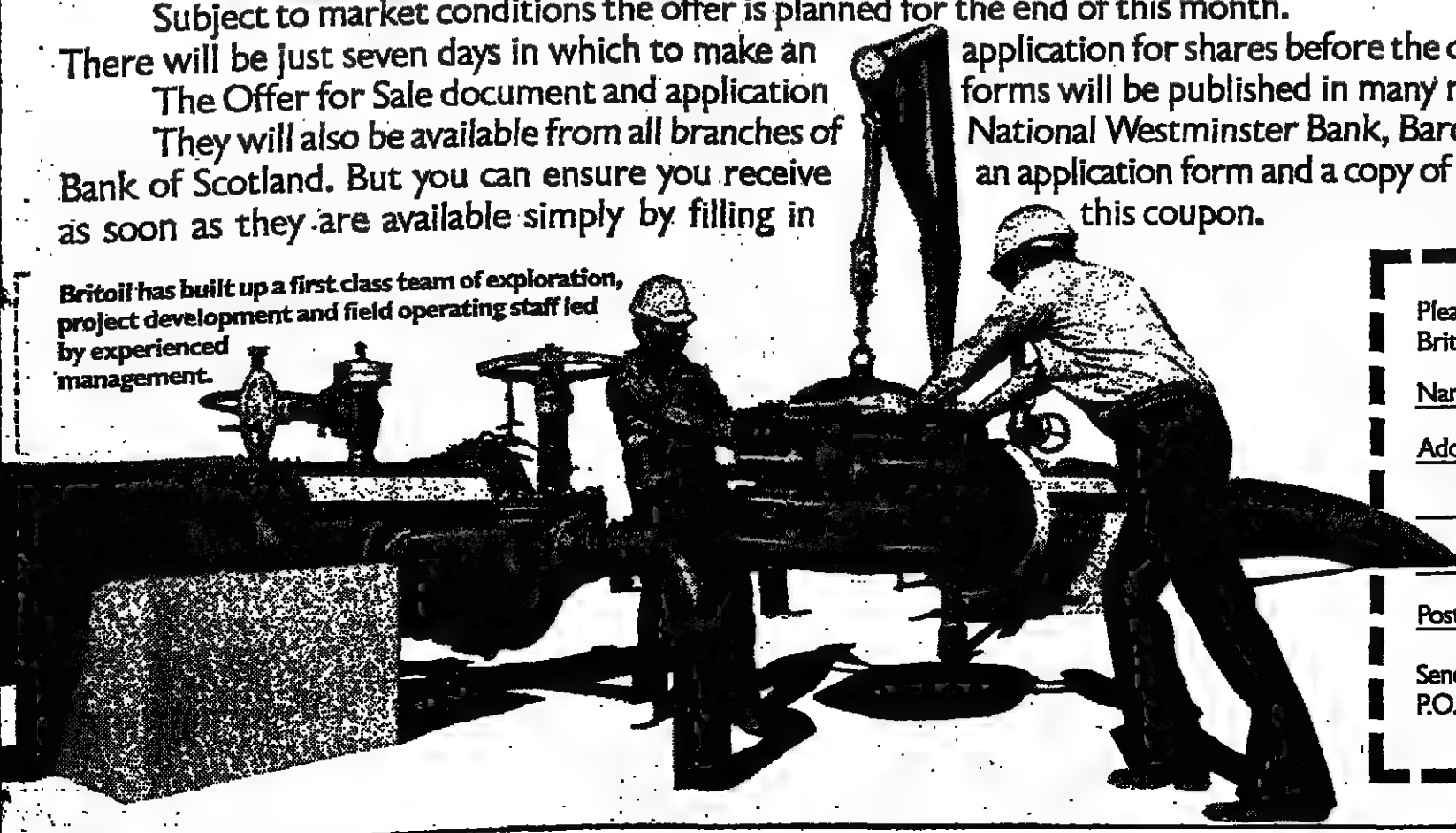
At the end of 1984, Britoil's worldwide reserves stood at 554,000,000 barrels of oil and 916 billion cubic feet of gas. Now the Government has decided to offer its remaining shares for sale.

And, as in the past, it intends to give private individuals, not just City institutions, a full opportunity to apply for shares.

Subject to market conditions the offer is planned for the end of this month.

There will be just seven days in which to make an application for shares before the offer closes early in August. They will also be available from all branches of Bank of Scotland. But you can ensure you receive as soon as they are available simply by filling in this coupon.

Britoil has built up a first class team of exploration, project development and field operating staff led by experienced management.



Please send me more information about Britoil and reserve my copy of the Offer For Sale document, without obligation.

Name

Address

Postcode

Send to: Britoil plc,  
P.O. Box 5000, Bristol, BS99 1GB.

**Britoil**

SOON, THE REMAINING 49% OF BRITIL SHARES ARE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

Issued by Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited on behalf of H.M. Government.



## FT index hits new low for year as ICI slumps

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# Playing Reverse Monopoly with houses

Martin Pawley looks at the growth of the new equity economy

'The Government presides over something that looks like a classical 19th century economy'

THERE was a time when Britain was a trading nation. We solved the problem of survival after the great population explosion by exporting manufactured goods and buying food and raw materials from abroad: an arrangement that began with the captive markets of the Empire and continued into the post-war global trading economy.

As an economic strategy it worked for over 150 years, although as time passed and competition increased we got less and less good at it. We passed the point of no return in the first half of 1983, when we imported £12 billion of manufactured goods more than we exported — a £2 billion turnaround on the last six months of the preceding year. That was when historians will say we left our trading past behind and embarked on an economic journey into something else that nobody understands.

All we know about the new British economy is that, in some respects, it is more like the import-substitution economies of the Third World than the trading economies of West Germany or Japan. To a great extent it depends on the sale of North Sea oil, which will produce £18 billion in revenue in the current financial year and without which we might well be in the hands of the IMF again. But oil is not the engine of the new economy as far as the people of Britain are concerned, more appropriately it is merely its lubricant.

bricant: the thing that makes the new British economy go is owner-occupied housing. We have found a way not only to get rich from our own houses, but perhaps even to live off them entirely in the future.

The coincidence of declining industry with rising personal incomes poured money into housing instead of machinery. As late as 1970, real net manufacturing investment was equal to building society lending at £1 billion a year: by 1978 it had slumped to £365 million while building society lending had more than doubled to £2.4 billion. Today it is considered a matter of pride that industrial investment has reached £2 billion a year — even though the building societies now commit that sum every month in loans to homeowners.

Today's Conservative government presides over something that looks like the classical British economy of the 19th century in all but the "bare subsistence" level of domestic consumption — and that despite the crushing political liabilities of massive unemployment, low investment and set-piece battles with the trades unions. This new creation is widely seen as a triumph of traditionalism — or monetarism — thinking: in fact it is nothing of the kind.

Without the entirely unplanned contribution of

purchasing power generated by the housing market Margaret Thatcher would have been sent packing by the electorate in 1983. What has saved her politically is the only revolutionary element in her otherwise reactionary programme: the boom in housing credit that is now as vital on the micro-economic scale of domestic politics as North Sea oil has been on the macro scale. This nation of homeowners has begun to play Monopoly in reverse.

Reverse Monopoly, or the use of equity to finance consumption, operates from the vast resource base of the market value of all the housing in the country. Unlike the traditional board game, in which players start out with money and end up with property, today's Reverse Monopoly players start out with property and try to turn it into cash. For reasons connected with location, tenure and state of repair, the price value of off the property held by all the players cannot be accurately measured, but on an average-price basis homeowners' credit alone is unlikely to be less than £350 billion. This figure is so large that comparators are hard to come by.

From this immense resource base the new-style Monopoly player will begin to do consciously what he or she has done instinctively ever since they got a foot on the aptly named "ladder" of home ownership. That is to increase the share of annual consumption expenditure that is drawn from long-term housing credit, at the expense of the share drawn from earnings.

Just how feasible this process can be is easily demonstrated: it could even work for those who are already unemployed, provided all the other players game vigorously enough to force prices up and the DBSS continues to pay interest on mortgages held by the jobless. It already works in a small way for retired homeowners who, under the "home income plan" operated by some insurance companies, can convert their equity into an annuity payable to them for the rest of their lives.

An alternative means of calculating the household significance of the Reverse Monopoly economy is to derive figures from the assumption that at least 50 per cent of housing credit leaks away

into direct consumption. According to the 50 per cent formula, £25 billion was diverted in this way, which suggests that the 1,200,000 households who took out loans on houses in that year disposed of an average of £4,583 for direct consumption. Because housing credit increased from £11 billion in 1983 to £18 billion in 1984, the average equity income shared by the 1,370,000 borrowers last year must have risen to at least £5,500. In the present year, when all the indications are that £25 billion will be lent on housing, equity income for direct consumption could well top £5,000.

Ten-year projections on the 50 per cent rule suggest that Reverse Monopoly will make as great a contribution to consumption as social security payments by 1996. But even though the rate of lending is increasing at a speed that threatens inflationary consequences it is unlikely to consume the value of the basic housing asset unless it is politically restrained. The synergistic effects of inflation in the economy, house price increases, the sale of rental property, and the deliberate restriction of new construction by planning controls only strengthen the collateral value of housing.

Provided government support for the booming housing credit industry is maintained

at its present level there is no reason why borrowing against the security of houses should not sustain itself indefinitely, pushing up acquisition prices at the same speed as credit expands, and feeding the resultant inflation back into the cycle via higher interest rates and more rapidly rising house prices.

According to the BSA report, Housing Finance into the 1990s, published earlier this year, there will be a £100 billion mortgage market by the year 2000. This projection is based on an average house price of over £100,000 and an average purchase loan of £60,000. The report makes scant acknowledgment of the phenomenon of Reverse Monopoly, or the powerful multiplier effect that the growing use of mortgage funds to pay for current consumption must have on any realistic growth projection. The only indirect reference is a passage reading: "The level of mortgage finance required by borrowers is not necessarily related to the level of housing market activity and it may become increasingly difficult to differentiate between lending for house purchase and lending for the security of housing." Such caution is disingenuous coming from an organisation that is as well aware of the destination of its loans as the clearing banks, about whose indiscriminate home-refinancing practices it complained to the Bank of England in 1981.



COWDELL: Fighting for WBC title at Birmingham

## Cowdell's sights on McGuigan

### BOXING

Put Cowdell hopes to fight Barry McGuigan if he is successful in his bid for the WBC World featherweight title. In October, the 31-year-old Midlands fighter said yesterday, Cowdell meets the champion Zuhair Nelson (Ghana) at the 11,500-seater Birmingham National Exhibition Centre. Victory would increase the chances of a bout with McGuigan, the newly-crowned WBA champion.

The London promoter Frank Warren is handling the Cowdell-Nelson contest in association with the American promoter Don King. It will take place on October 5 or 12, depending on US television needs, Warren said yesterday. "If Pat wins, a fight with McGuigan would be a natural," Warren claimed. "The McGuigan camp did not want the Irishman to fight Cowdell, but he added: 'It would be the biggest fight this country had ever seen—two British boxers who are both world champions.' A natural," Cowdell said. "We would both want to know who is the best." The October fight will be Cowdell's second shot at the world championship. In 1981 he went the full 15 rounds with Salvador Sanchez in Houston, but was beaten on a split

decision. He retired as undefeated European champion at the beginning of 1983 but came back 18 months later and went on to win the super featherweight championship of Europe.

Nelson, the unbeaten Commonwealth champion, won the world title in 1984. Cowdell's chance comes only four months after McGuigan's defeat of Eusebio Pedroza for the WBA version of the featherweight championship.

The Midlands promoter Johnny Griffin is set to take on the British Boxing Board of Control over the regulations demanding that a percentage of all sponsorship deals struck by promoters, at present paid direct to the board, be abolished. "It is the promoter who displays initiative in arranging sponsorship for his show, and even more so if TV coverage is arranged. The present 12 per cent deduction from net sources of revenue is an unfair amount to give to the board and lessens our bargaining power."

Griffin maintains he has enough support for the 300 signatures he requires to call an extraordinary meeting of the board to discuss a rule change. "The London promoter Mike Barrett is one who has expressed interest and I hope to hold a meeting of all the interested parties within the next two weeks," said Griffin.

### SOCCER IN BRIEF



OSMAN: £200,000 move

### Leicester snap up Osman

LEICESTER CITY last night signed Ipswich's England international centre-back Russell Osman for £200,000. Osman, who is 26, has been capped 11 times for England and is the first signing Leicester manager Gordon Milne has made since the £800,000 sale of striker Gary Lineker to Everton.

ARSENAL yesterday stripped Graham Rix of the club captaincy. The 27-year-old England

midfield player was also fined "very heavily" following his 12-month ban for drinking-and-driving. Kenny Sanson or Stewart Robson are the likely replacements.

BIRMINGHAM CITY, who are waiting for the result of the FA inquiry into the club's game with Leeds, have lost their sponsorship deal with the Midlands brewery, Ansells. Birmingham are the only First Division club without shirt sponsors. The brewery says the decision is financial and nothing to do with crowd trouble.

EVERTON, League champions and winners of the Cup-winners' Cup, showed a profit on the year of £340,000 compared with a loss of £175,000 in 1984. Salaries allowed up £1.5 million as against £1.2 million but attendances showed a 66 per cent increase with average League gates climbing from 19,000 to 32,000.

ABERDEEN'S international winger Peter Weir was sent off as the Scottish champions lost 1-0 to Switzerland in a friendly at Neuchâtel. In an ill-tempered match, Weir was dismissed nine minutes from time for a foul.

Richard Eaton

### Cairo to launch new era

### SQUASH RACKETS

Historic firsts are right now arriving thick and fast in the sport of squash. Three of them come in the new season's World Championships in Cairo from November 21 to December 4. It will be the first time that a prize fund of \$60,000 (£42,857) has been seen at any squash event, although with revolutionary attempts in the pipeline to push into North America with syntheses of the softball and hardball games, this figure may not remain a record for long.

It will also be the first time the world championships have been held in Egypt, even though this is the home of three of the legendary names: Abou Talib who three times in the sixties won the British Open, then the World Cham-

ionships, Mahmoud el Karim, who won it four times from 1947 to 1950, and Amr Bey, who won it five times in the thirties.

A happy coincidence, therefore, that a famous squash-playing country now in need of a boost of fortunes will hold the first joint world individual and team event in the history of the men's game and end the extraordinary controversy and confusion of the season before last.

Then in quick succession were held the ISRF World Championships, the ISPA World Championships and the SRA World Masters, leaving the public puzzled and the aficionados angry at the promotional lunacy entailed. Now the ISRF (the International Federation) has graciously agreed to scrap its individual events and place its team event alongside the ISPA (Players' Association), world Open, then the World Cham-

### A MESSAGE FOR BELLS' SHAREHOLDERS.

# WHY GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR YOU.

We'd like to show you how a merger of Guinness and Bells will enable you to participate in a group with exciting growth prospects.

### GUINNESS AND BELLS APART

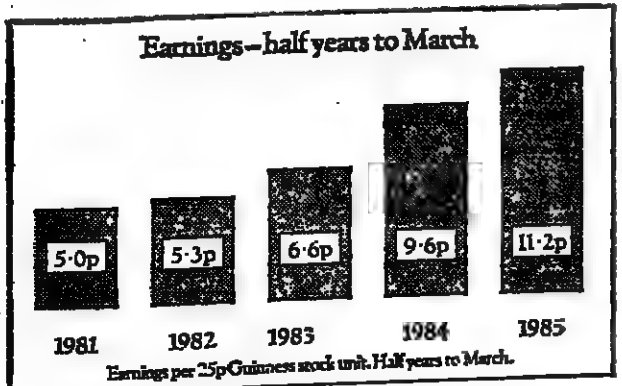
The truth is, Guinness has a definite sense of direction. Bells doesn't appear to have.

The revitalisation of Guinness has been no hit and miss affair. Earnings per share have grown by no less than 122 per cent over the three years to 30th September 1984.

Guinness share price has steadily climbed as the Stock Market has recognised the achievements and the positive direction brought to Guinness by its new management team since 1981. Bells' share price has underperformed the relevant market sector by 43 per cent between its peak on 17th February 1983 and 14th May 1985, before bid rumours.

Guinness has successful twin growth strategies.

Profit growth for today, by continuous improvement in established businesses, International Beverages and Retailing.

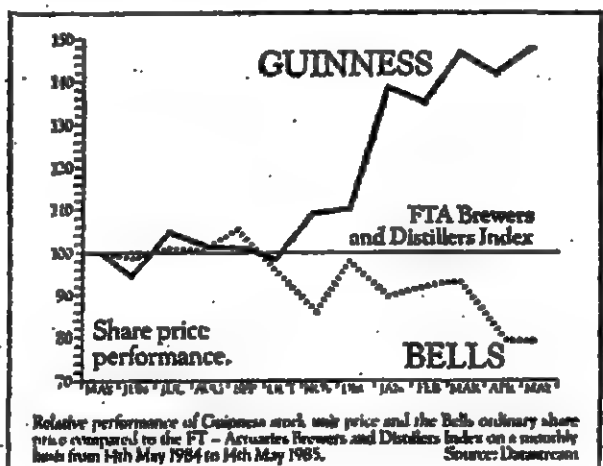


Profit growth for tomorrow by investment in growth sectors within our established businesses and in exciting new areas such as Healthcare and Publishing.

Trading profits from Retailing and other non brewing activities rose to £6.7 million in

the half year to 31st March 1985 from £1.8 million in the half year to 31st March 1984.

The story at Bells is somewhat more sobering.



Its diversification activities have been rather less successful. Canning Town Glass, for instance, has lost £2.4 million over the last four financial years. The refurbishment of Bells' Piccadilly Hotel in London is now expected to cost at least 60 per cent more than the original £10 million estimate, and it is still unfinished in what should be its most lucrative season.

Perhaps the most important disciplines the new management team has brought to Guinness are real marketing and advertising skills. The result has been to reverse the decline in our core brewing business.

Meanwhile Bells' share of the U.K. Scotch Whisky market has declined by 20 per cent since 1980.

Guinness sales to the U.S. have risen by 81 per cent by volume in the three years to 31st March 1985.

Bells has failed to make its promised inroads into the crucial U.S. market.

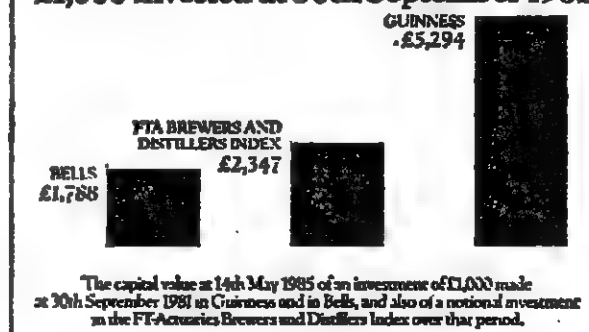
### GUINNESS AND BELLS MIXED

Guinness has considerable regard for the Bells' brand and its distilling skills.

Bringing together the skills of the two companies would create a force in the world's drinks market of considerably greater potential than Bells alone ever could. And obviously, bigger sales of Bells would lead to greater job security.

Indeed, Guinness' faith in the venture is clear by the guarantee given that there will be no redundancies as a result of Bells becoming a member of the Guinness Group, and the fact that Bells would continue to be managed in Perth.

Capital Value at 14th May 1985 of £1,000 invested at 30th September 1981



On 14th May 1985, before bid rumours, Bells' shares languished at 143p. You are not only being offered a substantial premium over this price, but also shares in an exciting, enlarged group.

We strongly recommend you accept our offer. Because as you can see, Guinness is not only good for you, but good for Bells, good for Bells employees and good for Scotland as well.



### GUINNESS PLC

DRAUGHT AND BOTTLED GUINNESS, HARV KILBER, DRUMMONDS, MARTIN THE NEWSAGENT, LAYBELL, FLEVEN STORES, CHAMPNETS AND STOR CASTLE HEALTH RESORTS, NATURE'S BEST VITAMINS, GUINNESS PUBLISHING.

Bells has lost its way. Guinness is good for Bells.



















# No bang heard on black box, says judge

From Joe Joyce, in Dublin

Reports that a "sharp bang" possibly an explosion — was heard on the cockpit voice-recorder of the crashed Air India jet were denied last night by the Indian judge leading the official inquiry into the disaster.

Mr Justice B. N. Kirpal said: "I have heard the cockpit voice recorder and I have not heard any such crack at all."

He was speaking in Cork, where he is meeting members of the international investigation team trying to determine the cause of the crash in which 329 people lost their lives last month.

"It is not possible at this stage to find out what has gone wrong," the judge said in an interview on Irish radio.

The judge is to decide with Canadian experts which pieces of wreckage still on the seabed should be recovered. A Canadian consular vessel, the John Cabot is surveying and lifting the wreckage with an unmanned submersible.

Mr Justice Kirpal indicated that hearings would begin in India when all the evidence had been collected, probably in three weeks.

"What is important is not only to find out what happened but to make recommendations to ensure that such a thing does not happen in future," he said.

The judge yesterday met the chairman of the Canadian Air Safety Board, Mr Bernard Deschenes, whose experts have been conducting inquiries from Cork since the accident. Most of the victims in the flight from Montreal to London were Canadian residents.

Mr Justice Kirpal also visited Cork regional hospital, where the bodies of 131 victims were examined. He will be shown wreckage recovered from the sea. He will visit Shannon air traffic control today, from where the alert was raised when the jumbo disappeared from the radar screen.

# Wide changes in Cabinet expected after Tory revolt on top people's pay

## Ministers see big shuffle ahead

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

Ministers believe that Mrs Thatcher will carry out a much larger reshuffle of the Cabinet than she had intended after this week's Tory rebellion over pay rises for top people.

As members of the Government prepared for Parliament's 12-week summer recess, they predicted that Mrs Thatcher would want to reorganise her ministerial team fundamentally to steady the nerves of the party for the run-up to the general election.

The advice from the whips to go for a much wider reshuffle of the ministerial pack contrasts with earlier signs that Mrs Thatcher would seek only limited changes because of the blockage caused by those in the key posts, the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Thatcher flew to the United States last night for a short visit in which she is to attend the conference of the International Democratic Union, and she may meet President Reagan during his co-conference.



Mr Jerry Wiggin—urged Thatcher to listen

However, it is believed that she will seek to avoid damaging morale with a Cabinet sacking. It is expected that she will be moving ministers about rather than having a general clear-out.

The reshuffle is expected around the weekend of September 7 and 8, when the Prime Minister will be at Balmoral with the Queen.

Senior ministers admitted that it was unfortunate that she had left after the rebellion in which 48 Tory MPs voted against the Government, reducing its majority to 17.

There is little doubt that Mrs Thatcher's status as a rebel has been damaged by the rebellion. She faced an unusually hostile challenge to her authority yesterday during Prime Minister's questions before she left for the airport.

The former defence minister, Mr Jerry Wiggin, MP for West-on-Strait, who voted with the Government on the pay issue, expressed anger at the expected announcement today of a local structure plan.

"Will you instruct your ministers — and give an example yourself to listen with much greater care in future to the view of your own supporters or you won't have so many of them," he said.

Cabinet ministers accept that after this week's jolt they will have to listen more to the party's views. One senior source described the vote on pay as resembling a "lightning conductor," drawing attacks or disaffection over the ERM, the budget, or the bill to abolish the Greater London Council the aftermath of the miners' strike and the Tories' low poll rating.

Some Tories who voted against the Government were still expressing anger at the heavy anti-Torying used by the whips. It emerged that Mrs Thatcher had prepared a written statement to announce that the Government would table a confidence vote had it been defeated.

Some Tory backbenchers, when confronted by Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, one of the whips, assumed that Mrs Thatcher was threatening to resign. The whips did nothing to dissuade them of that threat and succeeded in winning the vote by forcing many to move behind the Government.

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, asked Mrs Thatcher in the Commons yesterday whether the whips had her authority in saying that she had threatened to resign. Mrs Thatcher said: "I am sorry to disappoint: I am here and will remain here."

The Cabinet had its last meeting yesterday, before its summer break. Its next meeting will be in September, possibly after the reshuffle.

Mrs Thatcher, after returning from America at the weekend, will be at Chequers but is planning a fortnight's holiday in Switzerland during August.

# Exports fall puts trade into red

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

The visible trade balance fell back into the red last month, to the tune of £243 million, after an unexpectedly high surplus in May.

The deficit was greater than expected with a disturbing element a sharp fall in the value of exports, supporting industry's current belief that the export boom of the earlier part of the year has faded as a result of the strong pound.

The deficit on manufactured goods jumped by £474 million to £1,085 million with the surplus on oil little changed at £842 million.

In the second quarter of the year the value of exports to the US rose by 20 per cent but exports to the European Community partners fell by 5.5 per cent, confirming the Confederation of British Industry's insistence that the pound is now valued far too highly against other European currencies, particularly the German mark.

There could also be a gloomy future for the UK in oil terms after yesterday's Opec decision to cut production. The decision, which could in turn, push down North Sea oil prices and Britain's oil revenues.

The exceptional May trading surplus on visible goods owed much to a low level of crude oil imports, ahead of expected cuts in Opec prices, and oil imports could rise again in the coming months.

The Opec agreement was further bad news for the Treasury, whose revenue targets this year from North Sea oil have already been seriously jeopardised by sterling's substantial gains over the US dollar, which prunes the proceeds from oil taxation.

# Cattle drug ring broken in raids

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

A black market ring in drugs used to treat and fatten cattle has been smashed in early-morning raids by police and food and drug inspectors in the West Country, it was disclosed yesterday.

The public could be at risk from meat and dairy products contaminated by the drugs, said the Pharmaceutical Society's chief inspector, Mr Gordon Appleby, whose investigators had been tracking the network for six months.

Farms and agricultural merchants in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and a vet's surgery in Devon, were raided on Wednesday morning. No charges have been made yet, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, whose inspectors were involved in the raids.

Large quantities of antibiotics and other drugs understood to include hormones for fattening cattle were seized, along with computer records and invoices.

"The ring was using a code whereby supplies of illicit drugs were specified on an invoice as cattle feed," said a Pharmaceutical Society spokesman.

Illegal supplies of antibiotics amounting to more than £1,000 a week were found in Gloucestershire, he added. "The network might stretch as far north as Cheshire."

Mr Appleby said: "It is not possible to estimate the extent of contamination of meat and dairy products, but the public health risk could be considerable."

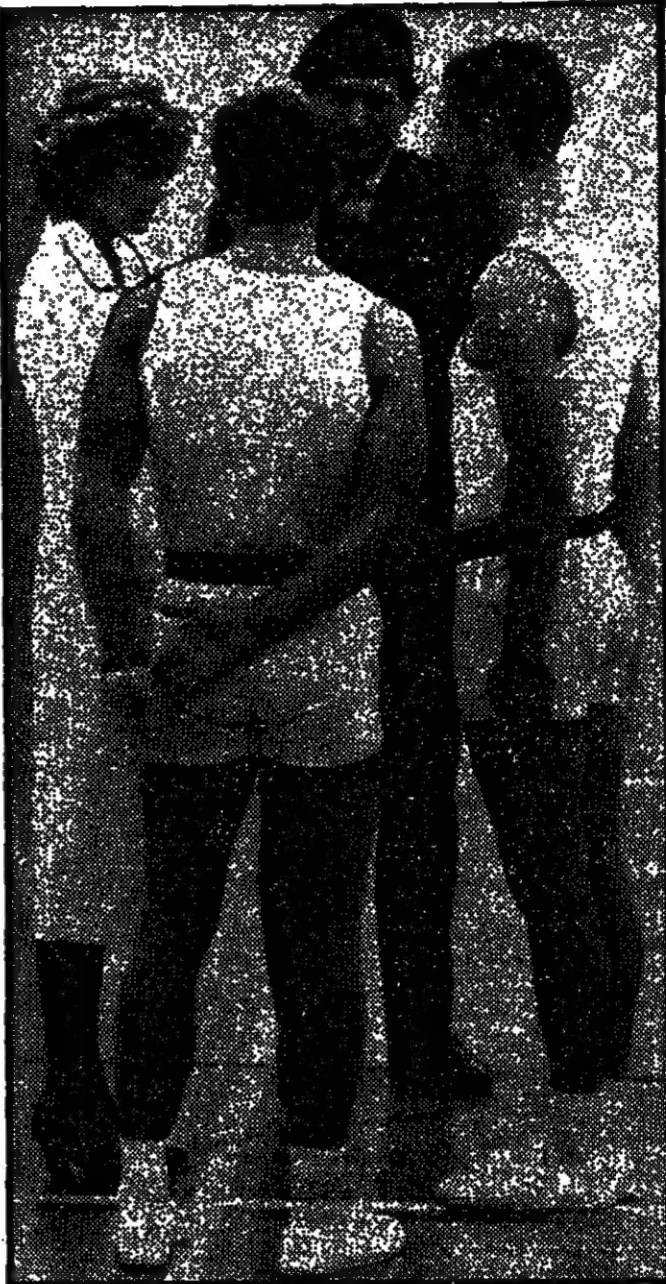
Hormones can only be given to cattle under the supervision of a vet. When a cow is slaughtered, the vet has to have a certificate saying that it has not been given drugs which would affect consumers.

When cows are given antibiotics farmers have to throw away the milk for a week after the course of drugs has finished.

"The fact that agriculture merchants were trading illicitly in these drugs means that people must have been putting them to illicit use," said the Pharmaceutical Society spokesman.

A number of agricultural merchants were being questioned, he added.

The supply of prescription-only medicines is controlled by the 1968 Medicines Act.



COMMANDO PERFORMANCE: The Princess of Wales in the gymnasium during her visit yesterday to the Royal Marines' Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon

# Duke's tax relief plan rejected

Continued from page one

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that the Duke has done his bit — now it's up to the Government to act. But it rejected the inquiry's faith that the private sector could put things right, and criticised the package for lack of emphasis on the plight of the homeless. It welcomed the proposals on mortgage relief, but rejected those for fixing private and public sector rents on a capital value basis.

The House Builders' Federation welcomed the report as a far-reaching and comprehensive package, but urged immediate action to deal with the areas of housing crisis, including legislation to enable building societies to offer shared purchase funds for people who could not afford the full cost of ownership. More flexible planning policies to bring forward land for development, and action to bring forward more under-used or derelict land.

The Town and Country Planning Association regretted that the inquiry had not considered the wider planning context.

# GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,298

CUSTOS

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

ACROSS

1 Foreign money needs to be more than enough for a month, on reflection (7).

5 Rose is not met as arranged (5, 2).

9 Big shot, to bring in a worker for each child (9, 6).

10 Believes they're meant for cargo (5).

11 Go smartly back after sacking? That may cause an explosion (6, 3).

12 At home in a shanty? It adds relish (9).

14 Old-fashioned note, a lot of lines by a girl (5).

15 Detective holding public prosecutor back, one hoping for commission (5).

16 See herald act oddly in religious place (9).

18 Disordered state making man, we hear, storm violently (9).

21 Small boat, with water supply lacking, is grimy (5).

DOWN

1 Promises a subscription letter and daybreak (7).

2 Commercial law, in a way that's flexible as well as exact (8, 3, 8).

3 Irregular hours that are needed to discuss exhaustively (6, 3).

4 A hand employed in various car ferries (5).

5 Corrects mistaken ideas of group's entitlement (4, 5).

6 Elaborate lyric being performed in concert-hall (5).

7 Obsolete turn, of the Indian rope-trick (12, 3).

8 Identification of one's observed among coppers (7).

13 A cretin, an imbecile personified (9).

14 Money-producing plant? (5, 4).

15 Company doctor of humorous play (7).

17 Constantly in the money, always fixed up (7).

19 Communist leader's no Liberal — a rhyme (5).

20 Suggests healers should carry scriptural books (5).

Solution tomorrow

# Short hopes for play-off

By Leonard Borden

Nigel Short is still in with a chance to become Britain's first ever world chess candidate after a remarkable final round at 23 where his rivals faltered under pressure.

Short, the 20-year-old British champion, outplayed Van der Wiel in a 30-move Sicilian Defence which the Dutchman resigned when down on material.

Final top scores are Vaganian (USSR) 12½ out of 17, Seirawan (US) 11½, Sokolov (USSR) 11, Torre 10½ and one unfinished. Short and Van der Wiel 10½. 12 Torre loses there is a three-man play-off starting on Saturday for the final place in the world candidates.

# Baby Tyra's father sentenced to life

Continued from page one

and disappeared. A note in the child's pocket identified her as Julie Miller. She had 57 human bite marks on her body, extensive bruising and severe brain injuries. She died on September 1.

The inquiry said it reacted immediately by commissioning an inquiry external to the social services department, which reported to the inquiry, its main objective being to look at the inter-disciplinary aspects of the case. He also stressed that more resources were needed from the Department of Health and Social Security to help boroughs such as Lambeth, which has about 970 children in care — the highest number in the country — and 353 on the at-risk register.

# THE WEATHER

WARM with some sun			
A COMPLEX area of low pressure centred over N Ireland at first will move slowly northwards during the day with an associated trough of low pressure crossing most central and eastern parts.			
London, SE and East of England, Midlands, N. Wales: Thursday rain, some drizzle, some sun. Friday rain, some sun. Saturday rain, some sun. Sunday rain, some sun.			
E. Anglia, E. W. of C. and N. of E. Wales: Thursday rain, some sun. Friday rain, some sun. Saturday rain, some sun. Sunday rain, some sun.			
Lancashire, Yorkshire, N. Wales: Thursday rain, some sun. Friday rain, some sun. Saturday rain, some sun. Sunday rain, some sun.			
Scotland: Thursday rain, some sun. Friday rain, some sun. Saturday rain, some sun. Sunday rain, some sun.			
Ireland: Thursday rain, some sun. Friday rain, some sun. Saturday rain, some sun. Sunday rain, some sun.			

# BBC staff plan protest

BBC staff are to demonstrate outside Broadcasting House next month against management plans to shed more than 4,000 and privatised some areas of the corporation.

# Jenkin eases squeeze on Tory shires

Continued from page one

Tory defeat in the shire county elections in May.

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow environment secretary, warned Mr Jenkin: "Having engineered a double for the Conservative Party in the shire elections, you are doing the same for your friends in the districts in the coming few months."

# THE GUARDIAN

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London EC1R 3ER  
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AMERICA WEATHER

ANTARCTICA WEATHER

MOON WEATHER

SUN WEATHER

STARS WEATHER

PLANETS WEATHER

COMETS WEATHER

METEORS WEATHER

NOVAE WEATHER

SUPERNOVAE WEATHER

BLACK HOLES WEATHER

WHITE DWARFS WEATHER

RED DWARFS WEATHER

BROWN DWARFS WEATHER

NEBULAE WEATHER

STAR CLUSTERS WEATHER

GALAXIES WEATHER

UNIVERSE WEATHER